

JPRS 81957

12 October 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2636



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

12 October 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2636

CONTENTS

AFGHANISTAN

Colonel Reports Infiltration of Resistance Movement (DIE WELT, 13 Sep 82)	1
Production of Various Consumer Goods Pushed (KABUL NEW TIMES, 2, 5, 9, 12, Sep 82)	2
More Output of Textiles Crafts Promoted Medicinal Plants for Export New Sweets Factory	
Natural Gas Output, Coal Distribution Advanced (KABUL NEW TIMES, 13, 14 Sep 82)	7
More Income from Gas Coal Distribution in Kabul Discoveries of Gas Reserves	

ALGERIA

Minister of Culture Meziane Discusses Algerian Cultural Identity (Abdelmadjid Meziane Interview; ALGERIE-ACTUALITE, 2-8 Sep 82)	12
---	----

EGYPT

Prime Minister's Statement on Closing Session of NDP Meeting (Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din; Cairo Domestic Service, 22 Sep 82)	18
Editorial on Cairo's Proposed Metro (Editorial; THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 14 Sep 82)	27

IRAN

Syria Hopes for Saddam's Imminent Fall (TEHRAN TIMES, 15 Sep 82)	29
Results of Fez Conference Denounced (Editorial; KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 13, 14 Sep 82)	31
Arab Capitulation Shocking News	

ISRAEL

Peace Movement's Friedlander Analyzes Current Issues (Saul Friedlander Interview; LE MATIN, 9 Aug 82)	36
Yosi Sarid Analyzes Lebanon Aftermath (Yosi Sarid Interview; L'HUMANITE, 24 Aug 82)	40

MOROCCO

Development of Mountain Rural Economy Examined (Larbi Douliazane; MAROC SOIR, 31 Aug 82)	43
Financial Status for 1981 Shows Decreased Industrial Production (Roland Delcour; LE MONDE, 10 Aug 82)	51
Problems of Meat Prices and Supply Discussed (LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, 30 Jul 82)	53

SAUDI ARABIA

China Trade Teams Survey Market (Suresh Shah; ARAB NEWS, 29 Aug 82)	57
Interior Minister Discusses Civil Defense Projects (ARAB NEWS, 31 Aug 82)	58
Additional Allocations for Development Projects (ARAB NEWS, 30 Aug 82)	60
Briefs	
Indian Consortium Wins Housing Contract	61
Water Pipeline Deal	61

SYRIA

New Projects for Developing Hims Desert Cited (Hisham Boukhari; SYRIA TIMES, 8 Sep 82)	62
Briefs	
Sugar Production	64

TUNISIA

Government Efforts To Aid Emigrant Workers and Repatriates Outlined

(AL-SABAH, 5 Aug 82) 65

Agro-Industry Statistics for 1981 Reported

(LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, 23 Aug 82) 70

AFGHANISTAN

COLONEL REPORTS INFILTRATION OF RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

Bonn DIE WELT in German 13 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] A colonel, who deserted from the secretariat of Sultan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Afghan Council of Ministers, has charged in Islamabad that Afghan secret agents are reportedly being slipped "in thousands" into Pakistan and Iran to gather information about the refugees. Furthermore, these agents were supposed to be creating "troubles" for the host countries.

Col Habibullah Hidayat who has been in Pakistan since Wednesday reported in a press conference in the Pakistan capital that the agents of the secret service ("Khedmat-e Ettela'at-e Afghan Dawlatia"-KHAD) were supposed to be infiltrating the resistance movement. The secret service reportedly consists of 40,000-45,000 men. "All branches of the KHAD are directed by Soviet officers; and the organization is totally dependent on Moscow," said Habibullah Hidayat. The head of the Pakistan section of KHAD is named Michael Grittschko; and the head of the Iranian section is an Azarbayjani named Fekrat.

The officer said that he left Afghanistan because he got the impression that his secret relations with an Afghan resistance group in Pakistan had been discovered by KHAD. According to the story of the 54-year-old colonel, who formerly served as a government spokesman, there had been a shootout in early August at the Presidential Palace in Kabul in which at least six persons were reportedly killed and many others wounded. However, he could not confirm the rumor whether any members of the government were among the victims. In any case, President Karmal was not wounded.

The news agency of the Afghan resistance group in Peshawar, Pakistan (AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY--AIP) has reported among other things that resistance fighters in the Panjsher Valley had, so far, shot down six helicopters and jet airplanes of the Soviet invasion troops. Also, a guerrilla fighter reported rumors to the news agency that the Afghan cabinet had approved an autumn offensive against the resistance fighters.

CSO: 4620/61

PRODUCTION OF VARIOUS CONSUMER GOODS PUSHED

More Output of Textiles

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 2 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

"Paying serious attention to investment in private sector, management and improvement of production, exemption of taxes, credit and customs facilities, are the beneficial programmes of our revolutionary Government for development of national capitalists, and this has had very fruitful results", an official of the 'Almas' textile mill told the Kabul New Times in an interview recently.

He added: "The Almas textile mill is one of the productive projects in the private sector. It was established in 1355 H.S. (1976) with an initial capital of Afs 5,000,000 and a final capital of Afs 15,348,000, in order to encourage and develop industries in this country and to meet a part of the nation's needs".

In the year 1360 H.S. (1981), the mill obtained Afs 10,870,000 and in the first quarter of this year Afs 3,000,000 from the sale of its produce, with the sincere cooperation and assistance of the revolutionary Government.

Cotton cloth is the main produce of the mill and pieces desirably coloured are sold through the mill's sales agencies in the capital and the provinces.

"The production of this mill, qualitatively is equal or even a little bit better than the products of similar mills in the country and it has a good name in the markets of the capital and the provinces", the official said.

The mill possesses 50 sets of weaving and 10 sets of dyeing, ironing and other machines.

"The annual production target of the mill, regardless of the lack of raw materials or technical faults—the machines is planned and envisages as 300,000 metres of coloured cotton cloth. But, the expansion and development plan is only being worked out and its implementation needs further cooperation of the Government", he said.

The mill has three production units and three technical sections. The volume of the produce in the first month of this year reach-

ed to 24,181 metres while the volume of production last year was 287,230 metres. Technical faults affected the level of production and lowered the production graph of the mill.

Earlier, the raw materials needed by the mill was provided by the Afghan CART company, but, now they are imported directly from abroad through letters of credits", the official said.

He continued: "Investments in the fields of economy, production projects and formation of industrial organisations in the country for meeting the necessities of the people, is considered a necessary measure", for development. It will not only provide employment but also avoid expenditure in import of the same commodities. Development of local industries and growth of national economy by investments in private sector has paramount importance for a backward country like Afghanistan. This is why the Government of

the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been and is paying serious attention to the creation more such productive organisations that may meet the needs of this country.

"After the victory of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary

phase, the Afghan CART company has put raw materials, at a cost of Afs 35,000-000, at the disposal of this mill. This amount has been loaned with repayments in instalments. And, this assistance of the Government improved the financial base of the mill which was stag-

nating during Amin's rule", he said.

"We also employ the credits of the Industrial Development Bank to purchase raw materials and receive other facilities from various other organisations that aid private sector development" the official said.

Crafts Promoted

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

The DRA Government is trying to organize small industrialists and craftsmen, provide them technical help and advice and finance their projects.

Abdul Rahman Yarmand, head of the small industries promotion centre of Industrial Development Bank (IDB), told the Kabul New Times that so far the small industrialists and craftsmen have not been organized while they are meeting the bulk of the initial needs of the people and they are exporting to the world markets as well.

These producers work only with primitive and simple instruments and most of their goods are home-made. Thus they face enormous difficulties as far as instruments and raw material are concerned.

In order to ensure better conditions for this important strata of society, the IDB is undertaking significant measures to provide them technical and financial assistance and professional advice.

The bank established a centre in the Barikot region for organising assistance to craftsmen under the name of the Centre for Promotion of Small Industries'. Some of the industrialists gather-

ed in the place and appropriate facilities were provided for them.

The initial investment for the creation of the centre was Afs 24 million, but today it exceeds Afs 29 million.

One cooperative and 10 small industrial projects are being set up under the auspices of the centre. The craftsmen enjoy bank credits, storage and other facilities on the spot.

The centre only caters to the needs of those industries with relatively small investments and limited production, with ownership solely belonging to Afghan nationals. Moreover, the cost of the machinery should not exceed Afs 4 million.

But, the area of activity of the centre is not limited. Any kind of small industry, which uses domestic raw materials, can be a beneficiary of the centre.

Further, places are also envisaged for other businesses which might be of need for other kinds of services, such as electricity, telephone and water, and storehouses. They will be entitled to more easy utilisation of bank credits. With an interest rate

of six per cent on credits up to Afs 4 million and 10 per cent on credits of over four million.

In order to provide incentives to industrial co-operatives, the bank offers extensive facilities, the most important of which is credit without payment guarantees.

Concerning the development plan of the centre,

Yarmand said that, in addition to new industrial centres, more industrial projects will be carried out in future and an expert on small industries will be working with the centre.

He hoped the quality of production will thus improve and the quantity will also increase. It has been further decided to work for better marketing and set up similar centres in other provinces.

Medicinal Plants for Export

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 9 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

The Afghan Medicinal Plants Joint Stock Company has exported a total of 7212 tons of liquorice roots worth Afs 232,386,135 to the world markets last year and during the first four months of the current Afghan year (March 21, 1982, to March 20, 1983).

Abdul Fatah Raheem, President of the Company in an interview to the Kabul New Times recently also said that in 1360 H.S. (up to March 20, 1982), the medicinal plants company had exported a quantity of 4558 tons of liquorice roots worth a total of Afs 139,787,530 Afghanis to Britain, America, Italy, France and India according to its planned targets. And the annual balance sheet registered a total profits of Afs 44,089,255 from the sales of this amount liquorice roots to these countries.

In the first four months of this year, a quantity of 2654 tons of liquorice roots worth Afs 92,598,605 has been exported to the same countries.

He pointed out that last year an additional quantity of 15,068 tons of liquorice roots and other medicinal plants and herbs were also exported under license by individual traders and trade establishments.

The extra income from trade permits for this export to world markets amounted to Afs 24,656,361 which went to the state treasury.

He said that in the first four months of this year, the state has earned a sum of Afs 18,039,356 from the sales and exports of these items to foreign markets. He further noted that the medicinal plants have become an important source of foreign exchange earnings for this country.

Elaborating further he said that Afghanistan is one of the traditional producers and exporter of a number of medicinal plants to the foreign countries. These include: liquorice roots, caraway seeds, water-melon seeds, alfalfa seeds, mushrooms, Asafoetida, coriander seeds, white-poppy

seeds, aniseed, rose flowers, anemones, onion seeds and some other items.

Asked about the number of wild-growing medicinal plants in the country, he said that so far there are 300 different types of medicinal herbs, which are growing wild in this region. But out of this, at present only 36 medicinal plants are being exported to the world markets and are commercially exploited.

As to the methods of collection, he said that the medicinal plants are collected each year during particularly seasons. But the collection methods are very primitive indeed. To teach the producers to make a wise and scientific use of these resources and to improve their collection practices, the Afghan Plants company has carried on much publicity in this field and has sent mobile teams to the growing areas to teach and demonstrate to the collectors the scientific and efficient methods of collection of these plants so as to conform to the standards, norms and specifications set by the buyers and world markets.

The medicinal plants, he said, generally grow in all the provinces and the various districts. But it is the northern parts of the coun-

try which are best suited for the growth of these medicinal plants he noted. For example, he said, the main liquorice producing regions in the country are: Fariab, Jauzjan, Balkh, Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan, Laghman, Parwan and Maidan provinces.

Speaking about laboratory analysis and determining of the chief constituents of the medical herbs, he said that the contents of these plants are determined through analysis made by the staffs of the faculty of pharmacy, the pharmaceutical department and other organisations.

As, these days, the quantities of wild-growing medicinal plants collected is consistently declining (chiefly because collectors seek more rewarding employment in other sectors) traditional suppliers are turning to the cultivation of medicinal plants, wherever such plants lend themselves to cultivation so that they can meet the growing marked demands.

Since many medicinal plants in high demand may be grown economically in Afghanistan, which fortunately possess arable land and manpower resources permitting it to produce sufficient quantities and sell it at competitive prices, the Afghan Medici-

nal Plants Company, has entered into discussions with various other organisations like the forestry and pasture lands department of the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry, the faculty of pharmacy of the Kabul University and the public health department regarding how best to organise collection of these plants. The discussions are aimed at developing a co-ordinated and integrated plan for better utilisation of plant resources, revival of these resources and avoiding the danger of extinction and destruction of these precious resources Raheem stressed.

The company has no research department of its own yet. But of the seeds that it has obtained from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), have been sent to the forestry department for analysis.

The company is also exploring the possibility of cultivating some of the medicinal plants in Afghanistan in areas where the conditions for the growth of these plants may be favourable.

He also said the plan for the establishment of a liquorice roots processing unit is in advanced stage of discussion, and the UNDP has expressed its readiness to cooperate in this venture.

New Sweets Factory

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 12 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

The Begzad confectionery factory, with a capacity to provide 3,000 tons of products annually, has been newly established.

Speaking on the need for the establishment of this factory, its economic role and production activities, an official told the Kabul

New Times that after the victory of the glorious Saur Revolution, the ground was prepared for effective and useful activities for all the people of the country including craftsmen, merchants, national capital-holders and owners of small scale industries.

"Availing themselves of this opportunity and facilities provided by the popular Government for growth of the national economy and augmentation of the local products our national traders and capital holders with full confidence in their future are making the utmost use of these facilities".

"After the Jaddi 6 victory of the new phase of the revolution, which was for the liberation of the people, our national capital-holders with more confidence have undertaken construction of many production institutions, industrial establishments and private investments in different sectors".

"No doubt, investment and establishment of new industrial projects in different sectors (state and private) is of paramount importance and plays a great determining role in promoting the living standard of the people and in the na-

tional economy's growth. Establishment of an industrial plant under the present circumstances is not only in favour of the merchants and small entrepreneurs, but also the general public."

The source said that the Begzad confectionery factory, which is such an enterprise has been established with Afs 4 million initial capital. The final capital has been envisaged to be around Afs 100 million.

The factory produces a variety of confectioneries. Seventyfive per cent of its work is machine work and the 25 per cent only is manually done. The quality of the confectionery produced in the factory is better than others produced locally and it competes with similar foreign products.

All hygiene conditions are strictly observed in the factory.

Twelve sets of confectionery and one chocolate-making machine are at present operating in the factory. The assembling and montage work of the machines was done by the technicians of the factory under the guidance of the Pule Charkhi department for development of industrial centres.

The factory has begun production one month ago.

The production capacity of the factory, which is in the trial period still, is 10 tons daily, but increase in production is expected in the near future, the official said.

The raw materials needed by the factory, including icing sugar, glucose, milk, (cream and dried), butter, coco and some other ingredients are imported from Holland. Butter and sugar are supplied locally from the market here.

During its one month of activities, the factory has produced over 170 tons confectionery and has supplied to the local markets, fetching over Afs 5 million. More confectionery worth over 4 million is ready for sale at the factory's stores, the official added. Since confectionery is a major item of consumption, the Begzad factory strives to improve its products quality-wise and supplies it to the market. The products of the factory are at present consumed locally.

Two hundred and eighty workers are employed in the factory. With further development of the factory, the expansion plan of which is at present being scrutinized, the employment rate of the workers will considerably increase.

NATURAL GAS OUTPUT, COAL DISTRIBUTION ADVANCED

More Income from Gas

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 13 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

Over Afs 15 billion were earned by the state from the sales of gas last Afghan year (ended March 20, 1981). This represents nearly half of the government's budget in the DRA.

This was stated by an official of the oil and gas extraction in an interview with Haqiqate Enqlabe Sa-ur', organ of the Central Committee of the PDPA, recently.

He added that the workers of the department last year produced 2761 million cubic metres of gas—showing an increase of 121 million cubic metres over the plan targets.

Also, during the same year, the workers produced 8,546,000 litres of oil condensates, which exceeds the planned target by 246,000 litres.

He pointed out that, next year, it is planned to raise the production of the existing wells by well over 3 billion cubic metres.

But, at the same time by exploiting the new gas wells, it is envisaged to raise the production by 32 billion cubic metres annually.

This shows the ever-increasing role of gas export in the future economy of the DRA, he noted.

Coal Distribution in Kabul

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 13 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

To help the Kabul citizens prepare for the winter ahead and to widen in distribution of coal, the briquette-making factory of Kabul has already started the distribution of coal from Sunbula of the current Afghan year

through its four agencies. The distribution will be continue until the end of the month of Qu-as without any delay in between.

As of today, over 4,000 tariffs and coal distribu-

tion orders have been carried out only at the factory centre.

Eng Mohammad Osman Hasan, general director of the factory talking to the Kabul New Times about the whole procedure of coal distribution in Kabul, said: "To receive the coal they need under a definite and organized programme in due time, more facilities have been provided for the Kabul citizens than in the previous years. That is why the distribution of coal began from the first of Sunbula and it is hoped that with the approach of winter, all the citizens will receive their due amount, easily and their fear of a shortage will be removed."

The coal, distributed presently, is extracted from the Kar Kar and Doodkash mines and it is pure and genuine. "Therefore, customers don't need juice for making briquettes of coal and every one can make a briquette without mixing it with juice. The powdered coal itself can be prepared for usage", he said.

The factory, "as corporation in the service of the people has always tried its best and will try until the last, within the present possibilities, to provide all-round facilities to our compatriots. It has also done its best to prevent unequal distribution of coal to the citizens and given the people all the necessary facilities", he said.

On the bases of the

recommendations made and decisions taken, each customer, who is in fact the representative of a family, can receive 1,000 kgs of coal against Afs 1,000, according to his turn. This means only one Afghani for each kg of coal.

To cope with the great demand for coal, besides the centre, the factory has four agencies--in Khairkhana Mena, Mirwais Maidan, Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah Mena and Taimany Watt newly established, these agencies are also distributing coal to citizens, especially the residents of their respective areas.

According to the plan, by the advent of winter, around 30,000 tone of coal will have been distributed to the Kabul residents by the factory and its four agencies, according to Eng Osman.

Although, in the present circumstances, coal is one of the sources energy for most productive and industrial enterprises of the country, the humanitarian policy of the revolutionary state recognises that it is also a necessary part of the fuel for the inhabitants of the Kabul, Balkh and Baghlan provinces, he pointed out.

On the basis of the plan for 1361 HS, due to the great demand for coal, there will be considerable increase in the sale of coal in these three provinces. For the present, there is a sufficient stock at the factory centre,

besides the stocks with mines directorates of Pule Khumri and Balkh which are ready for distribution.

Coal is distributed in the Kabul city as dust or in a powder form in general. Exceptionally limited amount of coal made in to briquettes is distributed to some embassies in the capital, for whom there is no possibility getting any other fuel, Eng Osman noted.

From the beginning of 1361 HS till the end of month of Saratan, as much as 42,049 tons of coal has been extracted as powder and the extraction from the Kar Kar and Dood Kash mines is still in progress. In the first four months of the current year, in comparison with the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 6,401 tons has been achieved. This makes an increase of 118 per cent.

At present, no less than 13,195 tons of powdered coal exists, after the distribution of the quota of the factories and

industrial enterprises, in the Kar Kar and Dood Kash mines and in the briquette making factories of Kabul and Balkh. The coal needed for the Kabul residence has according to the scheduled, been transferred by the road transport department from the Kar Kar and Dood Kash mines to the directorate of the briquette-making factory and its sale agencies.

Eng Osman pointed out that, to provide more facilities for the Kabul citizens this year, the Mines and Industries Ministry has ordered that the coal allotments for them, done from the four distributing zones to their residences, should be carried by the tractors of the department. It has been decided to put some of the tractors under the charge of the agencies to help the citizens transport coal for a suitable fee. Court and individual transports can take part in carrying coal according to regulations governing the state tractors.

Discoveries of Gas Reserves

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 14 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

In recent years, besides being consumed along with petroleum within the country, natural gas is exported to the USSR. The export is the second largest source of the national income and accounts for 80 per cent of the total production of the Mines and Industries Ministry.

These figures explain

the special attention paid by the PDPA and the Government to exploration, development, utilisation and processing of petroleum and natural gas. The general department of petroleum and natural gas is responsible for continuance and expansion of its current activities with Soviet assistance.

Stating this to the Kabul New Times, Dipl Eng Hafizullah Nawabi, general president of the department, said: "A glance at its background reveals that the initial exploration of the petroleum and gas resources started in the first part of the 20th century and the process has continued. The efficiency of the research in this field varied both qualitatively and quantitatively in different stages."

"With the assistance of the USSR", he added, "the exploration work entered a new era in 1957. According to the contract dated July 1957, concluded between the then Government and the Soviet Union, this fraternal country since then renders technical and financial assistance".

So far, over 113,000 sq kms, geophysical and geological drillings for deep explorations, development, and extraction of the petroleum and gas reservoirs in northern Afghanistan have been accomplished.

Even a summary of the tasks carried out by both Afghan and Soviet engineers, workers and technicians makes impressive reading.

Gas was discovered in the Yatim Taq structure, 15 kms east of Sheberghan city, capital of the Jozjan province. Its existence was proved here and drilling work is to be done for digging the developmental wells to confirm the quantity of extractable gas in the reservoir. According to the schedule, confirmation will be available next year and initial utilisation begin.

Natural gas has been discovered also in the Khwa-

ja Gogardak structure, situated adjacent to Yatim Taq, in the Gutriv stratum. It has 48.7 billion cubic meters of extractable gas.

The reservoir is being tapped through 39 wells and drying and collecting units from 1967 till now.

The structure also contains gas in a deeper jurassic layer of about 18 billion cubic metres.

The quantity is expected to be determined in the near future.

Gas discovery has been made in the Jarquduq structure, too. This is located eight kms from Sheberghan and contains 27 billion cubic metres of precious resource. After the installation of sulphur isolation and drying plants and digging of 19 wells, utilisation began of the gas which forms 50 per cent of the total produce.

The gas produced in the Khwaja Gogardak and Jarquduq structures is carried through pipelines to the chemical fertiliser and thermal power plants of Mazare Sharif and exported to the USSR.

The gas also provides electricity for the Mazare Sharif and Balkh cities of the Balkh province.

Some gas reservoirs have also been discovered around the city of Sheberghan and will be worked upon later.

So far, as a result of the work accomplished, 112 billion cubic meters of natural gas have been proved to exist in the northern part of Jozjan province. Of this, 36 billion cubic meter have been extracted from the Khwaja Gogardak reservoir till the end of the current Afghan year.

"From the study and re-

search conducted in the sedimentary areas of northern Afghanistan, it is clear that a large amount of natural gas and petroleum exists in the area. Therefore, the exploration and discovery works should be accelerated to enable its further utilization", Nawabi said.

Several years of studies and research have revealed that the particularly petroleum-rich are the rugged layers in the Sare Pul district of the Jouzjan province. Development work continues in the Angut, Sare Pul, Aqdarya and Qashqary structures, which contain 12 million tons of crude oil. A refinery with a capacity of at least 500,000 tons is planned to be set up in the future. With this, completion of a sizeable refinery part of the country's petroleum products requirement will be met.

"Exploration and exploitation of such energy sources are largely dependent on research works in the long-term and short-term plans, financial and technical feasibilities in the country", Nawabi pointed out.

"The department strives to achieve goals set by the Saur Revolution especially its new and evolutionary phase".

The department hopes to implement projects in other sedimentary areas in nor-

thern Afghanistan. These include:

—Geological surveys on different scales of other sedimentary regions in the country.

—Explorational drillings of the structures in northern Afghanistan.

—Completion of geophysical surveys, especially seismic operations, employing different methods, in the first phase in the northern part of the country and the Seistan region.

—Training of technical cadres to accomplish these tasks.

—Provision of residential homes for the personnel.

The department has three field sections in the Mazare Sharif and Sheberghan cities and has 4,500 workers on its payroll.

Following the victory of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary phase, special attention is being paid to the employees' housing. Over an area of 2,200 jeribs, a residential building for the workers has been under construction as part of the Sheberghan city plan, with all modern facilities. The distribution of the plots has begun this year.

In the near future, additional homes will be provided for the workers. These houses will be built over an area of 200 jeribs in the city.

MINISTER OF CULTURE MEZIANE DISCUSSES ALGERIAN CULTURAL IDENTITY

Algiers ALGERIE-ACTUALITE in French 2-8 Sep 82 pp 22-24

[Interview with Abdelmadjid Meziane, minister of Culture, by Ameziane Ferhani: "False Universality and True Artists"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] It was an appropriate moment to report on the international conference on cultural policy. Abdelmadjid Meziane, minister of Culture, was well situated at Mexico City to be able to discuss it with us today. It was also a propitious moment to talk about some aspects of this country's cultural situation.

[Question] An international conference on culture is not held every day. As Algeria's representative to this conference, sir, how do you evaluate its importance?

[Answer] It was a conference on cultural policies. It was the second of its kind held by UNESCO; the first was held in Venice in 1970. To us, cultural policy is mainly a process that formulates general problems, i.e. in the general context of international relations with the industrialized countries on one side and the Third World countries on the other. We reject the neutral idea of a culture developing in isolation. We consider culture as being linked to economic, scientific and technological development. That was a reason that the two groups of countries present at the conference might have misunderstood each other from the start.

Since the Venice conference, we have noted that instead of cooperation there has actually been a kind of hard line taken by the industrialized countries, so much so that subordination of all kinds--economic, military and technological--has been not only maintained but increased. In addition to the old forms of cultural aggression, we feel that even the so-called "universal" civilization is being oriented toward militarism. These problems had to be spelled out clearly at Mexico City. The industrialized countries brought up points for discussion that were pure and abstract questions of culture. For us, the issue was overall cultural policy, that is, everything that might involve development, international cooperation and the identity of young nations in cultural matters. This cultural identity is precisely what we want to affirm and strengthen. Algeria is well situated to understand the issue. Our country may be the one that has

suffered the most aggression in this area. Under colonization we used our small means of resistance to fight all attempts to depreciate our heritage. Now we have greater means with which to combat cultural assimilation, and we are staging resistance in this area. We are doing so quite well. This cultural identity thus had to be defined as an offshoot of a false universality, because Western culture often presents itself as "the only universal culture" and wants to swallow up and obliterate other cultures.

[Question] You were talking about a hard line. How do you see it?

[Answer] In the industrialized countries, cooperation is taken in only one way: "We'll give you something, but we don't need to take anything." For example, when it comes to teaching languages, they ask us to teach English or French in our countries, but they never think of doing the same for Arabic in the schools and universities of Europe. That is a hardline position. When they talk about exchanges between civilizations, they ask us to translate the universal works--Western ones--but they have never yet proposed that we translate works from the Moslem, Hindu or Chinese civilizations. On top of that, their history texts steal the universal accomplishments of other civilizations. This hard line is linked to a kind of superior position proclaimed by the West. Our position consists in calling for cultural cooperation in all directions: North-South, and also South-North, East-West, etc. And there are some points considered as pertaining to universal ethics, such as imperialism, Zionism and racism, that should have been taken up at Mexico City. There can be no true culture without peace and justice. We must denounce those three forms of aggression, because there can be no culture without ethics, either. Every time we bring up these aspects, the Western position hardens.

Some people like to think that relations between poor and rich countries are excellent and that it is natural for some to be superior to others. We have striven to upset this intellectual smugness. A new universal ethic is needed and must be based first of all upon the denunciation of these three immoral and inhuman dimensions that jeopardize any form of culture, be it local or universal. We were thus obliged to fight very hard throughout this conference. We may also say, without misplaced vanity, that Algeria played a leading role in getting all these positions stated. We noted an American and Israeli predominance at the conference that made itself felt by intimidation so that imperialism and Zionism would not be denounced. To do that, they attempted to depoliticize the conference by confining it to cultural aspects that I consider minor and routine.

[Question] In short, culture in and of itself...

[Answer] Right. Our contribution attempted to counter those theories by infusing a more combative political dimension whose primary point is the necessity of a new cultural order that resolutely rejects colonialism and imperialism.

The second thrust of our efforts was directed towards the two great injustices of the century, which are apartheid and the multifarious attempt to suppress the Palestinian people. The third point was the restitution of cultural property to peoples who have suffered outright plunder in this area. We had a lot of allies supporting our proposals on this subject.

[Question] An argument common among the former colonial powers holds that the Third World countries are not able to preserve these cultural properties effectively.

[Answer] That is not true for the very good reason that those former colonialist countries, no matter what may be said, are trafficking illicitly and shamefully in cultural properties. It is an extraordinary form of speculation. Let's not talk, then, about archives that are exploited for political purposes to deform historical truth when they ought to serve to reestablish it and stress the national worth of the countries to which they rightfully belong. We also discussed the cultural rights of emigres, who are subjected to a generally admitted attempt to assimilate and deculturate them to the point that their personal dignity is impaired. We brought all these points to a vote, and we won. All the resolutions we proposed passed with an overwhelming majority, although some countries did try to go against the tide. Some European countries did so because they were torn between their desire to trade with the Third World--and I mean commercially--and their colonial nostalgia plus their deep love for Israel; this was also true of many Latin American countries under particular pressure of intimidation. The battle proved hard. Two groups of countries generally confronted each other: the Third World and socialist countries on one side and the more or less conservative Western countries, on the other. There were a few defections or hesitations among the Third World countries, but on the whole we won the main points. As I said, the struggle was not easy. Remember what the colonialist theoreticians used to say: "Our mission is to civilize the world." Well, they are still saying pretty much the same thing about Western technological civilization even though it is turning the world in a destructive and anti-human direction. We have other ethical, spiritual and esthetic values to give to humanity. For us to do that, the cultural blockade must be lifted. A new form of cooperation is needed, and we are saying basically, "We want to know and appreciate you, but you must get to know us too."

[Question] Is this a new universalism, then?

[Answer] Yes indeed: a new universalism where all civilizations are equal. We must not limit ourselves to science and technology, especially because we are often up against an aggressive and predominantly militaristic technology nowadays. This is not the only aspect of development and civilization.

[Question] The final declaration of the conference seems very positive, but what will be its ultimate fate? What concrete results can we expect from such a meeting?

[Answer] Actually, nothing much except new awareness on the part of the younger generation. The great danger is, as you know, self-colonization. When you see our youth in Asia or Africa aping the dominant civilizations, it's as though we were trapped by the famous saying of Ibn Khaldoun: "The victors impose upon the vanquished their ways of life and civilization." If we can make our young people understand that we are not the vanquished and that we have worthy cultures and civilizations, then a great step will have been taken to solidify a new cultural order. That does not suppose that we would shut ourselves off from other civilizations, because we are for openness, dialogue and cooperation. We could then have our true values known abroad. But we cannot hope that it will happen by itself. Such an undertaking implies real struggle.

[Question] People are calling for a new cultural order in North-South relations, but we note at the same time that South-South cultural exchanges are few and paltry. The same goes for the economy.

[Answer] That is indicative of a serious situation; the orientation of exchange channels. Most of the developing countries look to the North. Every country of the Third World is thus paying tribute to a well-defined cultural circuit. For example, it still seems strange to send our students elsewhere than Europe even though we have been independent for 20 years. Yet science and some technology can be sought out in countries such as India and China. Those who were colonized by England continue to go to London, others, to the United States, etc. It is more practical for linguistic and other reasons. The thought patterns are still those of the self-colonized peoples, who are mentally conditioned to think there is no science or technology outside of Europe. But we have a lot to exchange with countries close to us. For example, it is possible to study languages such as English and Spanish outside of England and Spain. Mexico has taken sociology to a high state of development, but we have never sent any students there. The Third World countries have not labored enough toward the kind of relations that we now need to establish, under the political and mental conditions of revolution. Also, in North-South relations is only a one-way street. The North produces and the South consumes. It doesn't go the other way.

[Question] Maybe as a kind of recovery?

[Answer] Not even that. Culturally there is almost nothing in this direction. For example, I have never seen French people ask Algerian teachers to teach Arabic in French schools. Anyway, it's not even taught there.

[Question] But African music, for example, is collected by European or British groups and redistributed in Africa.

[Answer] Yes, but I think it is just a minor form of exoticism. I do not see how African art could have been universalized. The only music recognized as being universal is classical European music. The playthings from Africa are exoticism and passing fancies.

[Question] Sir, you said a moment ago that we were putting up very good resistance to cultural aggression. I do not think this is quite what we see in the behavior of young people or in the volume of imported cultural productions: books, films, etc. I still think there's....

[Answer] Yes, a situation of inferiority. Nonetheless, a balance sheet must be drawn up. When we won our independence by force of arms, we did not even have a national language. We had to fight to acquire that natural resource. That does not mean we have given up other languages. On the contrary, we do teach them. But now we can say the Arabic language is a language of common usage, teaching and work. It is the official language. This is a positive step for Algerian culture. Also, we have drawn up an explanatory cultural plan, although it can be improved. Anyway, nothing is ever perfect when it comes to culture.

We have thus drawn up a clear political platform for culture. It defines Algeria as a country of Arab-Moslem civilization and culture. That is important because at one time some people claimed they did not know what our identity was. This cuts off any desire to prolong colonialism. The elements in the platform are now clear and have received the endorsement of 99 percent of the Algerian people. Even the intellectuals, who were hesitant and wanted to maintain a kind of Westernist universalism, finally realized they were a minority and had to rejoin the majority. I think we have shown good resistance in protecting our cultural identity and can look to the future with optimism. But there are two other areas where we are in trouble: scientific development, where we are still dependent, and the media. As for the former handicap, we have a psychological advantage that will free us of complexes: we firmly intend to develop, and quickly. I think Algeria is in a good position to do so. As for the media, we must say they sometimes broadcast unconsciously works that imply the capitalist ideology of consumer societies. On that score we must keep our critical spirit constantly alert. The media must carry forth a dynamic and liberating culture. The media are the area in which the future of the younger generations is most threatened. In the big cities--Algiers and the regional capitals--we can see a wave of Western styles in music, lifestyle, dress, etc. But I think that will pass when there is a true Algerian artistic and literary expression; this will also extend to behavior, dress and furnishings because these aspects of daily life are also cultural. There are already preliminary indications of this renewal. In literature and art we are in a period of change. At present, literary production in the national language is larger than that in French. This is the result of efforts that Algeria has made in education. A younger generation that has graduated from national schools and universities has never had a colonial education and is producing with an Algerian spirit. A few years ago we were producing only 30-40 titles a year. We are now up to 250-300 titles a year; as we draw on our Arab-Moslem heritage in Algeria we will easily produce a thousand titles a year. That is our goal. Therefore, even as we criticize ourselves we must see the positive aspect of things. We have this solidly anchored process of development and the desire to produce in the national language with national sensitivity. As for the programs carried by the media, a review of their contents is necessary.

[Question] But the real solution is in the emergence of quality national programming.

[Answer] Exactly. A solid, combative, dynamic national production can contribute greatly to saving the younger generations. That cannot be the case for productions that are only a pale copy of what is being done in the consumer societies; in this case it would be as dangerous as self-colonization, even if it were done in the Arabic language. Anyway, what does the language matter if the content itself makes no sense?

[Question] Quality production also requires institutions. The ministry of Culture is one, and a new one in this country. What may be rightfully expected from it, do you think?

[Answer] Well, I hope a lot may be expected from it; basically, encouragement of national production and its authentication or, rather, its reauthentication. Those are tasks that the ministry of Culture must accomplish in coming years. That is part of its program. Also, very dense programming on the media will bring Algerian culture back home to Algerians. We have let things go haphazardly. To overcome that, commissions must be established between the ministry of Culture and other interested ministries: Information, Education and Basic Instruction, Higher Education, etc. These commissions must be capable of good programming until television can establish a channel reserved for culture, although cultural messages are present everywhere. Nor must we forget that in a few years it will be possible to receive any European television station. Very high quality programs must be prepared. So far we have somewhat confused culture, leisure, politics and news. It is time to teach people good taste, authenticity and pride in oneself.

[Question] Sir, all that supposes the manpower will be available. In our work as journalists we are necessarily in constant contact with artists, and we have noted that they are definitely discouraged. What could you tell them?

[Answer] We have already brought them together, and we are planning for them first of all a program of comfort, stabilization and renewal of the artistic message. But what is an artist? The authentic artist must be distinguished from the false one. Many people call themselves artists without deserving the title in the slightest. Algerian society must give the lie to these detractors of art. Unfortunately there are many of them, but there are also true, great artists whom we must help and encourage to produce and improve constantly. For that purpose we have decided, in agreement with them, to establish a law concerning the artist. The law will define the artist's place in society; it will be a prestigious one, because the artist is a man who produces not only esthetic but intellectual values for society. The law must therefore provide him with the tools for his work, a salary, retirement, decent housing, and a workplace, etc. His quality productions must enable him to receive material and personal benefits. The malaise existing among artists arises from the confusion between true and false artists and the absence of this statute defining artists by genres. Is an untrained flutist necessarily an artist? Can the derboukaji of a local band be put at the same level as a composer? All that has to be clarified. Art is not easy, and true artists must show themselves worthy of its demands. We do not yet have many artists of international stature; we must know how to recognize them. To do so, public taste must become increasingly demanding. We must not yield to facility and improvisation but select an elite--and this word is welcome in the world of art. Only in this way can Algeria lift itself up to the international level and see itself worthily represented.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON CLOSING SESSION OF NDP MEETING

JN220739 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1502 GMT 22 Sep 82

[Statement read by Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din on the resolutions and recommendations of the Third NDP General Congress held at Cairo University auditorium on 22 September 1982—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr President: At the end of the work of our Third NDP General Congress [applause], I would like to say that the congress committees have held a continuous series of meetings for 2 days, [applause], during which you, Mr President, and the members participated in lengthy discussions with constructive opinions, the deputies of the prime minister and the ministers have also made statements during these meetings.

The opinions, which were given, have truly expressed the needs of the broad base of the masses--the masses of our great people. These needs were covered by the recommendations of your congresses in the governorates. These needs were given every priority and precedence while we were discussing the 5-year plan. We are hopeful and optimistic that our serious work will lead to development and production for the sake of a better future for our great people, who have given their confidence to our National Democratic Party [applause] and who are determined to overcome all obstacles with hard work and effort.

We pledge to God and to you that we will be the vanguards of action and production in the various sites until the all-embracing development, which is aspired by the people for their present and future, is realized. We will exert efforts to defend our democratic experiment within the framework of the supremacy of the law and the values and principles of our society as well as the principles and ideologies of our NDP.

Please allow me, Mr President, to present to the esteemed congress some of the recommendations and resolutions which have been adopted by the committees of the congress and which represent the general framework of our work during the next stage in the various fields. All recommendations shall be sent to the party organizations in the governorates.

The first recommendation: The congress announces the reaffirmation of its confidence in the election of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as the leader of the NDP. [applause]

The congress authorizes the president to reconsider the formation of the NDP Political Bureau provided this formation is submitted to the congress at its first meeting.

In the field of defense the congress calls for bolstering and developing the armed forces in organization and armament [applause] with the aim of promoting their combat efficiency, so that they will remain the shield protecting the homeland against any dangers that menace its security internally or against any foreign or external aggression from any direction.

Sudan and Egypt represent a vital strategic depth for each other. Therefore, Egypt considers any threat against Sudan's security as a direct threat against its own security. [applause] Accordingly, Egypt is committed to giving military aid to fraternal Sudan against any threats that might menace its security.

The congress calls for a commitment to the policy of giving aid and assistance to the Arab countries and the friendly African countries against foreign dangers which endanger their security, out of Egypt's faith in its historical responsibilities toward these countries.

The congress calls for continued participation in the productive projects and the pan-Arab strategic projects by boosting the projects of the armed forces' national service apparatus and promoting the participation in the food security projects to achieve the stage of self-reliance.

In the economic and planning affairs domain the congress approves the broadlines of the 5-year 1982-87 plan which was presented by the government. The congress calls on all the executive bodies to necessarily adhere to implementing all the plans after being endorsed by all the constitutional institutions. The congress also calls for approving the priorities as defined by the broadlines of the 5-year plan. These are:

1. Attention should be paid to the issue of production provided that the sector of the production of commodities be the principal axis for turning the wheel of development.
2. Self-reliance should be developed.
3. Manpower should be used in the best way.
4. The standard of living should be improved, particularly for those of the limited income class.

The congress calls for promoting public sector efficiency and for expediting laws to guarantee greater freedom on economic bases and

rectifying its financial structure and its effective participation in realizing the objectives of economic and social development.

The congress asserts the important role of the local, Arab and foreign public sector and the role of the cooperative sector in the service of the open-door process, production and participation in accomplishing the objectives of the plan.

The congress recommends that greater importance be given to regional planning. It recommends the issuance of followup reports on the implementation of any plan on condition that these reports are periodic and comprehensive. The congress also recommends that financial and monetary policies, the policy of international economic relations, investments and international cooperation should be in line with the economic open-door policy and in conformity with the general framework of the plan, and its priorities and with the basic objectives of economic and social work.

On foreign relations, the congress praises the clear and firm line of foreign policy pursued by Egypt under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak [applause] and the intensive contacts and efforts made by Egyptian diplomacy under his leadership to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to enable the fraternal Palestinian people to secure their right to self-determination. The congress condemns the criminal aggression against the Palestinian camps in West Beirut to which thousands of innocent Palestinian people fell victim. The congress holds Israel completely responsible for that massacre. The congress appreciates the positive stand taken by the NDP government in the initiative it had taken by recalling [Istid'a] the Egyptian ambassador for consultations and calls for immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories. [applause]

The congress affirms that Egypt is part of the Arab and Islamic nation with a leading role in the Arab and Islamic world. The congress welcomes the positive steps which have been taken in the field of coordination between Egypt and Sudan. The congress also asserts Egypt's African affiliation and believes in Egypt's leading role in the African continent, especially at this time in which the OAU is subjected to divisions.

The congress affirms Egypt's complete commitment to all its international obligations and the peace treaty with a view to achieving comprehensive, just and lasting peace, on condition that the other sides abide by the letter and spirit of the treaty. The congress supports all initiatives and efforts to achieve the legitimate rights of the fraternal Palestinian people. It welcomes, in this respect, the positive points contained in the initiative of U.S. President Reagan on the Palestinian question. The congress hopes that Egyptian, Arab and international efforts, through talks and contacts with the United States, to tackle the observations made on this initiative. [sentence as received]

The congress, while stressing the importance of achieving Arab solidarity in order to cope with the challenges facing the Arab nation, calls for ending Arab differences and achieving more coordination and unified stands.

The congress is proud of Egypt's leading role as a founding member in the nonaligned movement and its persistent and persevering efforts to bolster this movement and to protect it from deviation and polarization. The congress supports Egypt's efforts for cooperation with all peace-loving forces in the world and with friendly countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America. It also supports Egypt's effective role in all international forums and in the United Nations.

On national security, the congress calls for bolstering the police and security organs so they will continue to cope with their increasing duties to achieve internal security, combat crime and terrorism and achieve internal stability and a solid domestic front. The congress also recommends bolstering the special police organs which combat speculations, control prices, prevent tax evasion and combat narcotics.

In the field of religious affairs, the congress recommends the codification of Islamic Shari'a and to begin implementing those Islamic laws which have already been codified. [applause] The media, both radio and television, must play their role in preaching religious and moral values. Every effort must be made to prevent anything contrary to these values. The congress also recommends the building of more Islamic colleges in view of the importance of preparing scholars in the propagation of Islam. Incentives should be provided to encourage students to join these colleges. Immediate action should be taken to place mosques under the control of the Awqaf Ministry so they will not be venues for propagating false concepts which have nothing to do with Islam.

In the field of programs and principles, the programs and principles committee has canvassed opinions on the basic points of the party's ideology; foremost the issues of democracy, ownership of means of production, planning and social justice. The committee has agreed on the prevailing opinion on all these issues. Party members shall participate in preparing the final draft of the framework of the party ideology. The drafting of the framework will be undertaken by the ideological committee of the NDP. The congress recommends that the committee complete the draft as soon as possible so it will become a party document expressing the party's ideology, which members will uphold, propagate and use as a guideline in their various party activities after this ideology has been presented to the party's Political Bureau and rank and file.

In the field of youth welfare, the congress recommends the need to draw up a national program responding to youth activities and aspirations and seeking to exploit creative youth energy. [applause] We should begin by exploiting youth energy in a national project in Sinai. This will be a suitable beginning to inflame their national spirit. The youth shall be united on the national goal of developing Sinai. The objective will be to show that the building of Sinai means the building of modern Egypt.

The congress recommends that the 5-year plan should include the completion of all sports and youth installations, both in Cairo and the provinces, the building of bridges of mutual understanding between the party and the youth through their positive participation in party activities and the continuous dialogue between the party and youth. The youth must be represented in the party at all levels.

In the field of housing, reconstruction and new communities, the congress calls for guaranteeing the flow of the necessary funds for reconstruction projects. We must improve the production of red bricks by using desert clay instead of producing hollow bricks. We must guarantee the necessary funds for water projects and sanitation sewerage so they will be completed by 1992. We must seek foreign loans for this purpose. We must assign land for cooperative housing under easy terms. No permits shall be issued for building new industries in greater Cairo and Alexandria. Such industries shall be located in the new community centers.

In the field of industry and mineral resources, the necessary funds shall be guaranteed for replacement work and new purchases in existing industries. Action shall be taken to expedite the completion of projects now under construction. The private sector shall be encouraged to increase its participation in the 5-year development plan by reconsidering bank interest on development loans, custom duties and intermediary goods, machinery and equipment.

In the field of energy and petroleum, prospecting will continue for oil and natural gas. Use of alternative energies will be encouraged. There will be expansion on the establishment of government and semigovernment corporations in the oil industry. Work shall be expedited to implement the nuclear program for generating power and to encourage the use of coal instead of oil. Work will continue to control the consumption of energy in all its forms.

In the field of supply and internal trade, a study shall be made on a nationwide basis to clearly specify the sectors of the population that deserve government subsidy and find the best means to ensure that the subsidy reaches the right beneficiaries. Action shall be taken to prevent the import of automatic or semiautomatic bakeries. Instead, the government will encourage the establishment of local industries for the production of semiautomatic bakeries. The idea is to mechanize the production of bread so as to cope with the increase in population and the diversified consumption.

Action shall be taken to increase the number of distributing centers for consumer goods, both wholesale and retail, through the local government organs so as to facilitate matters for the retail merchants and consumers.

In the field of popular development, all citizens, and the party members in particular, are called upon to participate in development projects on the basis that they constitute the practical embodiment of the party program to achieve a prosperous life for all citizens. Thus, party members will

be cooperating with all the national forces and trends for more work and more production.

In view of the great tangible change in the rural societies, which have changed from productive societies based on home industries to consumer societies--hence the shortage in the production of food and clothing--the Egyptian village should be returned to its correct status as a productive unit. Therefore, government efforts must be concerned with popular development efforts to encourage and extol home industry and set up the necessary channels to guarantee the requirements of this industry and to benefit from its products locally and internationally.

In the field of organization and membership affairs, the hard work will continue to attract to the party elements which are active and have the natural aptitude for leadership. An effort will be made to reassess the present leadership standards and inject the leadership structure with youthful and trained elements which will work with the present leadership to enrich party activities. Work will also continue to prepare and train party leaderships through organizational and cultural courses at the Center of National Studies.

In the health and family care field, the congress emphasizes the importance of the contribution of local popular and political organizations in the basis that health care is paramount to family planning.

Health insurance is a national objective in Egypt. The congress calls for extra efforts to improve the standard of medical treatment in government and private clinics so as to attain an acceptable standard. The government should provide guidance to private clinics. The government will continue to subsidize essential medicines to make them available to citizens at reasonable prices.

In the field of social affairs and insurances, the congress recommends expansion on the projects of productive families, vocational centers, kindergartens, children's clubs and those providing services to old people and the retarded. The congress also recommends expansion of programs for women's welfare in the cities and the rural areas. Furthermore, the congress recommends the exertion of more efforts to complete the project of complete social insurance by improving the performance and expanding the insurance units and payment centers so as to eliminate all problems facing the application of the social insurance. [applause and cheers]

In the field of education and scientific research, the congress stresses the main bases of the education and scientific research policy. As outlined in the 5-year plan, education is the right of all citizens and one of the basic services. Efforts shall be exerted to promote this service so as to cover all cultural, social, economic and national fields. Efforts will also be exerted to increase the number of children in schools so compulsory education covers 96 percent of children by the end of the 5-year plan. All children who have successfully completed the sixth class in the elementary schools must be accepted in the first class of the

preparatory schools so compulsory education will be expanded to cover 9 years of schooling. Efforts will also be exerted to expand on technical education, especially industrial education, and link this to the demand for technically skilled manpower. There will also be expansion in the technical colleges which provide 2-year courses and support will be given to universities in the cities and the rural areas. Furthermore, a balanced and integrated chart for the policies of higher and university education shall be prepared indicating the society's needs for different skills in different environments. This chart will play a major role in researches in the service of society with the backing of the school of higher national studies.

In the field of combating illiteracy, it is stressed that this refers to illiteracy in its broadest meaning; that is wiping out illiteracy in reading and writing as well as in cultural, social, vocational and national affairs. The combating of illiteracy is a national political responsibility, which must be assumed by the ministries, the local government centers, the political party, public institutions, unions, societies and employers in accordance with a national program drawn up by the Higher Council for Adult Education which was formed under the amended law on illiteracy and adult education.

In the field of culture, it is essential to maintain and repair antiquities, especially those visited by tourists. These antiquities must be presented in a respectable manner.

Child education: It has been decided to increase the number of theaters staging plays for children. They should be provided with simple plays which teach respect for values, courage, morals, honesty and so forth.

The arts: It has been decided to improve the standard of movies presented to the citizens and to contribute to those which serve national issues and to discard the bad movies.

Books: It has been decided to encourage young writers by publishing their works and creating incentives for them. It has also been decided to pay closer attention to books dealing with national heritage and Islamic and Coptic studies.

In the field of the working forces, it has been decided to set precise standards for performance in accordance with a precise system, linking wages to production. This is to be achieved by: 1) Establishing a continuous relationship between production, wages and prices. 2) Fixing a minimum level for wages so the Egyptian can enjoy a respectable life. The increase in wages shall be commensurate with the improvement in performance. This can be done by establishing an independent higher council for wages and prices whose task shall be to formulate the policy of linking wages to production. [applause] There will be control over the policy of employing university graduates to make sure that university graduates get productive jobs, not just any job. A new policy will also be introduced in the employment of university graduates so that such graduates undergo some

1

training before joining their jobs. The various government ministries, the people's working forces and the recruitment department shall cooperate in this.

In the field of transport and communications, extra efforts will be made to back the potential of the departments in charge of road maintenance and repairs to cope with the enormous increase in the number of vehicles and to preserve the road network, which is a special national resource, especially after this road network has been augmented by permitting the use of the military road network for civilian purposes. Efforts shall be exerted to bolster the companies engaged in building and maintaining roads. Special attention will be given to protective maintenance. Efforts will also be exerted to improve the standard of service in the telecommunications fields following the increase in telephone, telex and telegraphic lines. The government will continue to bolster the Egyptian merchant marine, whether its ships are owned by the government, individuals or companies. The government will also bolster Egyptair by purchasing long haul airliners, especially since many countries have preceded Egyptair in this field. Furthermore, the government will bolster the Suez Canal Authority's projects, especially those which prove economically feasible, so as to preserve this vital source of foreign currency.

In the field of local government, the local government committee recommends to the congress that it allocate the necessary funds for public utilities in greater Cairo, where there is an urgent need to renew the various networks, especially sewerage, water and electricity. The committee also recommends continuation with the program to electrify the countryside. Furthermore, the committee recommends to the congress the need to examine the phenomenon of the increasing exodus from the countryside to Cairo and the other major cities, especially since the population explosion in the cities is the cause of many problems of economic and social development. The committee recommends to the congress the need to take all the necessary measures to preserve government estates and to regain those estates which have been illegally seized and to use them in housing projects carried out by the provincial governments. The committee recommends to the congress to back housing cooperative societies, to encourage the private sector in the building of economic homes, to afford loans to individuals and private sectors at a small interest and to facilitate the provision of building materials for the provinces.

In the field of agriculture, irrigation, food security and land reclamation, the congress calls for the need to stress the mechanization of agriculture and the establishment of companies or cooperative societies to provide services in mechanized agriculture, provided all this is linked to a plan to purchase the machinery, guarantee spare parts and train the necessary technical cadres.

The congress also calls for expediting the work of registering agrarian reform lands, whose ownership has been turned over to the peasants. Agrarian reform must also enter a new and a more advanced phase to improve production. There should be special emphasis on increasing local production

of meat, poultry and fish, so that such items may be imported only when there is a shortage in local production. It is essential to further improve all stages of poultry farming; from producing chicks to distributing poultry meat to the consumer, fodder industry, slaughterhouses, cold storages and distribution centers. The policy of distributing fodder to chicken farmers will be revised. It is essential to follow the method of establishing agro-industrial societies, especially in the newly reclaimed lands, provided the necessary utilities are ensured for these new communities.

The role of the agricultural cooperatives must be enhanced in the countryside. These productive agricultural cooperatives should be linked to the consumer cooperatives, and the cooperative marketing of produce must be improved. It is essential to attain horizontal expansion by at least 150,000 feddans a year. The government will undertake the task of carrying out the basic work and provision of public utilities for the reclaimed areas. The private, cooperative and mixed sectors shall be encouraged to participate in land reclamation.

Efforts will be exerted, within the framework of a nationwide program, to eliminate the sources of pollution to the River Nile and the canals. Efforts will also be exerted to cleanse the River Nile and the installations established on it. Special attention will be paid to canals by mechanizing the work of cleaning and weeding out these canals.

In the information field, work will continue to expand the television transmission of the first channel and make the second channel available to all parts of the republic. The necessary steps will be taken to solve the problems of the television transmission, especially in the country areas. Radio and television programs will be improved so as to enrich the cultural background of the Egyptian citizens. These media will be used in expressing the masses' demands and in presenting public issues for open discussion so all viewpoints will be expressed on topics of national action.

Now, members of the congress, I am pleased and honored to present to you the president of the republic, the president of the NDP, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

CSO: 4500/311

EDITORIAL ON CAIRO'S PROPOSED METRO

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 14 Sep 82 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text]

ALMOST any new scheme to ease Cairo's traffic tangle must receive the public's whole hearted support. Almost any relief in the 9 to 5 snarl might be cheered as a break through, even if it means no more than transferring the chaos temporarily from one end of town to the other by a devious redistribution of one-way streets. We have lost all hope of real progress, so almost anything will satisfy us. Almost anything other than a transfer of street-level chaos forty metres underground.

It is not our intention here to take on the team of engineers who disappeared beneath Tahrir Square three months ago in an argument about the mechanics of the Cairo Metro. We would doubtless lose, without gaining much reassurance against those vague fears of a coming disaster. We would nevertheless be greatly relieved to be convinced, in the simplest possible terms, that central Cairo will not collapse in the digging process, that the underground tunnels will not suddenly drown when the Nile springs a leak, and that the excavators will not inadvertently mow down a knot of telephone and electricity cables, or water and sewerage pipes, on the way from Tahrir to Sayeda Zeinab.

These preoccupations, and they are presented in all sincerity, arise not so much from specific rumours as common or garden doubts about Cairo's ability to absorb another hole in the ground without something giving way. We believe they reflect, broadly, the ignorant public's queries about the scheme — and the public, including ourselves, has

been left in near total ignorance about what is going on underneath the capital.

And that is not all. Supposing, just supposing, the subway does finally materialise, new questions present themselves. Presumably the Metro network is to be air-conditioned, or at least aired, a process requiring vast quantities of electricity. Given that a televised League match between National and Zamalek soccer teams can cause power blackouts across the country, what guarantee will Metro commuters have that they will not be obliged to hold their breaths for the entire under-city trip? Will the doors be closed or open? Will the train move only when the doors are sealed and, if so, can this system be outwitted by some such enterprise as sticking a twig in a hinge?

Lest the authorities suspect that we are expressing only our own nit-picking fears, we include here a point raised some months ago by a reader and published on the Letters page. What, he asks, will happen when some desperate commuter relieves himself on the electric rail and short circuits the system — or worse?

Will passengers ride on the roof so as not to pay? Will scores of thousands bake underground one June afternoon when the train gets stuck in a tunnel?

None of these fundamental questions have been answered, let alone the more sophisticated inquiries that would present themselves to a scientific mind. Surely it were better to explain now than to end up 20 years hence with an expensive labyrinth the public refuses to use. For who would choose to be buried live beneath the metropolis when he can take his chances with death in broad daylight?

SYRIA HOPES FOR SADDAM'S IMMINENT FALL

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Syrian Minister of Information and President Hafez Assad's Special Envoy to Tehran, Ahmad Iskander Ahmad, left here for Damascus yesterday morning. The Syrian minister and his delegation were seen off at Mehrabad Airport by a number of top-ranking Iranian officials.

During his two-day stay in Tehran, Iskander Ahmad presented a message from the Syrian leader Assad to President Ali Khamenei. The message was mainly focussed on the results of the Fez conference in Morocco, the situation in the region and the Middle East, and also Syria's stance on latest developments in Lebanon.

The Syrian envoy also met and conferred with Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday afternoon.

The Syrian minister said the Islamic Revolution of Iran is the most important event during the second half of the 20th century.

Talking to the press before his departure he said that during the Fez summit Syria stressed that the Islamic Revolution was a sparkle which removed the darkness of the era of the deposed shah and his allies.

When the Iraqi imposed war on Iran was discussed at the summit, Syria emphasized that the Islamic Revolution

was a friend of the Arabs, a progressive and popular revolution which could inspire the Islamic world, the Syrian minister noted.

Iskander Ahmad reiterated Syria's decisive support for the Islamic Revolution of Iran in confronting all internal and external conspiracies and stressed that his country sought further strengthening of overall relations between the two states.

Asked on reports about Moroccan King Hassan's luncheon also participated by Saddam Hussein and President Assad, and that the two heads would meet soon, the Syrian envoy said that no political meeting was held between President Assad and Saddam, rejecting all reports in this connection.

Injuries Syria was suffering as a result of sabotage committed by Iraqi agents were too deep which needed a long time to be cured, Iskander Ahmad said.

He said that Syria was in confrontation with Iraq, hoping that the Iraqi regime would be overthrown soon.

Asked if the Fez conference had implicitly recognized the Zionist regime, Iskander Ahmad said that the conference had called on the United Nations to maintain security of the states in the region which did not mean recognition of

the Zionist regime.

Whether the Fez conference would affect the Steadfastness Front, the Syrian minister said that there was no dispute among members of the front and that their stances were coordinated to an extensive level.

Asked what was Syria's attitude towards the Libyan President Colonel Moammar Qadhafi's statements describing the decisions of the Fez conference as a treason, Iskander Ahmad stressed that Col. Qadhafi could express what he believed. But, he added, Syria did not believe that the conference's decisions were treason, although it was not fully satisfied with its provisions and objectives.

In reply to a question that Syrian press referred to the outcome of the Fez conference as outstandingly successful while Syrian officials expressed dissatisfaction over it, the Syrian envoy said that the press in his country had referred to the resolution of the conference as a positive step which, if implemented sincerely by Arab rulers, would create a positive evolution.

On the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, Iskander Ahmad said that as long as the Zionist forces continued occupation of Lebanese territory, Syrian forces would continue its defense of Lebanese and Palestinian brethren.

RESULTS OF FEZ CONFERENCE DENOUNCED

Arab Capitulation

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Sep 82 p 2

[Editorial by Abdullah]

[Text]

The Arab capitulation at Fez is now several days old and nothing has changed vis-a-vis the Zionist threats against the world of Islam. If anything new has developed it is the increased confidence of Begin and friends that their Arab adversaries are no match for Zionist determination. Further aggression from Tel Aviv is a certainty.

Judging from the volume of self-congratulations and mutual back slapping currently underway amongst the majority of the Arab world's leaders, it is clear they are content with achieving zero. These men have mistaken talking to themselves amidst palatial surrounding for confronting objective reality.

With the exception of Libya and South Yemen the collective Arab leadership has "succeeded" in formulating a document that recognizes Israel's right to exist in peace and security. This of course is in return for certain concessions, including the return of Jerusalem to Arab hands, that the Zionist entity is not about to grant. Clearly Israel had been enjoying both peace and security for many years before Fez.

Begin realizes that given the persuasion of the majority of Arab rulers today the existence and security of Israel is not in question. What he has not yet let be known is when Tel Aviv will formally annex those lands the Arab League has asked the Security Council and America to return to Arab sovereignty. Rest assured that this knowledge will be soon forthcoming.

With the Fez resolutions depending so heavily on United Nation Security Council action and American good will the Arab League summitters have given a bizarre twist to an old adage and produced a formula that describes precisely their collective political practice i.e. "feeding the hand that bites you".

The entrustment of Muslim Arab rights to Washington and the Security Council is a mixture of Arab political idiocy and

outright conspiracy against Islam in the Middle East and worldwide.

An analysis of the relations extant between Washington and Tel Aviv makes it quite clear that Israel is the leading and influential party. Zionism's designs hold sway on Capitol Hill while the Knesset has long been a forum for throwing darts and invective at whatever goy head might temporarily be occupying the White House. Gulliver is alive and prostrate in Zionism at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Tel Aviv's Lilliputians are keenly cognizant of this.

As for the United Nations Security Council, Israel has always treated its resolutions and anti-Tel Aviv strictures as carte-blanche for cultural, political and military expansion in the occupied territories.

Consult a 1948 map of Israel. Compare these borders with those subsequent to each Arab Israeli war (including the last one in Lebanon). Then check all the dates of the U N's resolutions versus the ever expanding land mass that is the state of Israel.

With the Security Council being tapped as a major guarantor of the Fez conferees decisions, Begin is quite satisfied over this latest show of Arab resolve.

As for the Arab leaders, certainly questionable behavior was exhibited by more than just the traditional clients of the United States.

Yasser Arafat on his part again made it clear that by wearing so many different hats it becomes quite impossible to have faith that the path he has chosen is a correct one. Kissing and pawing Fahd in public at Fez and then speaking after that of jihad, securing God's blessings and praying in Batt-ul-Maqdis is a set of contradictions.

Abu Ammar will be a genuine danger to the Zionist regime when he discards pan-Arabism in favor of pan-Islam. Until then he will remain a very clever political wheeler-dealer who unfortunately has discarded his biggest weapon for the hollow support of Arab leaders who have constantly betrayed the Palestinian cause.

Here we offer our congratulations to Muammar Qaddafi who had the good sense not come to Fez and roundly rebuke all the decisions taken there. Hopefully he will now become more attentive to practically confronting the Zionist entity by marshalling Islamic forces in the Arab and Muslim world.

This writer's humble advice to the esteemed Libyan leader is that now is the time to forego the pan-Arabism and his own personal brand of quixotic struggle that has isolated him and severely crimped his potential as a genuine Muslim leader. Muammar should now that there are outstanding elements in the Islamic world waiting for such a day.

Still, despite the Arabs, quite obviously, the Israeli pro-

nouncements regarding the future of what they refer to as Judea and Samuria (the occupied West Bank) will have greater impact on coming events in the Middle East than the conference of quislings at Fez

In the media blitz following this latest show of Arab "solidarity" most people hardly noticed that the Zionist entity has announced it will soon assume control of water resources in the occupied West Bank.

No less a land grabber than Ariel Sharon stated two years ago that by the year 2000 Israel as it exists today will not be able to meet its water needs by some 200 million cubic meters annually. He also let it be known that already two thirds of the water consumed in Israel comes from the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

Don't think for a minute that plans are not well underway in Tel Aviv to formerly annex more land in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to secure this thirsty nation's needs.

The Fez summit is finished. It was born dead. Begin and friends are just beginning.

Shocking News

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Sep 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

The news from Fez was so distressing that no Muslim can be indifferent to it. In any part of the world where there is a clean conscience, whether Muslim or non-Muslim the news of the Fez conference was shocking.

Probably the global news media will not reveal to the people of the world of what went on behind closed doors at the Fez conference. However there is no doubt that the truth will not stay in the dark forever. The important decision the Arab heads of state took can be summarized in these major parts:

a — The guarantee for the security of Zionists and recognition of Israel by the Arab states.

b — The exit of Arab deterrent forces from Lebanon which are of course Syrian. Thus Syria has been asked to refrain from encountering Israel. This effectively leaves the Zionists and Phalangists alone in Lebanon.

c — The all-out support of the Arab countries to the Ba'athist regime of Iraq and their endeavor to protect Saddam.

In the light of these Arab decisions taken in Fez certain points need to be stressed.

Only the president of South Yemen opposed the conference decisions and left Morocco in protest.

Algeria's participation does equal support because it

participated only at the foreign ministerial level. Algeria's stand regarding the decisions of the Arab heads of state cannot be taken as a compromising attitude.

On the other hand Libya with its boycott of the conference had declared its open opposition.

Apparently, the PLO did not oppose the Fez conference and Yasser Arafat declared his general agreement.

In this regard Syria's stand is not yet clear. Hafez Assad, the president of Syria attended the Fez conference and until now no news of his adamantness against or approval of the conference decisions has been received. Therefore, it is perhaps too early to comment on Syria's stand.

The three-hour meeting between Hafez Assad and Saddam in Fez is a subject that should be considered in the analysis of Syria's position regarding the conference decisions, even though Radio Syria has announced they have not reached any agreement and the meeting took place at King Fahd's insistence.

Thus it is not yet known whether the Steadfastness Front can henceforth maintain its unity.

If the U.S. has succeeded in creating a rupture in the Steadfastness Front and managed to pull some of its members towards the compromising Arab elements, it has achieved a great victory and delivered a big blow to Palestinian ideals.

Saddam's participation in the Fez conference and his confirmation of the conference decisions proves his attachment to the Zionist regime. Saddam cannot deny his alliance with the Zionists even though he may forge documents to show that Iran has purchased arms from Israel.

The indifferent attitude of the USSR regarding the recent Middle East incidents, especially the Fez conference decisions, reveals behind the scene political agreements between the U.S. and the USSR.

The Arab heads of state did not show any reaction towards the Soviet Union's aggression against the defenseless people of Afghanistan. Saddam, whose clean and open aggression against Islamic Iran was backed by the U.S. and the USSR, was also backed by the Arab heads of state.

The decision of the Arab heads of state to support Saddam even though it reveals their anti-Islamic nature, will have no effect on Iran-Iraq war.

During the two years of the war, despite these countries' economic, political and military support of Saddam, the war has turned in favor of Iran. This conference's resolutions will not help Saddam in any way.

A decision might have been taken by the Arab heads of

state to help Saddam in paying war compensation to Iran. If this is so then it should be said that this decision was the only positive decision of the Arab heads of state in Fez. Will the Arab heads of state be able to continue their treacherous plans and belittle the prestige and honor of the Muslims and offer their lands and their resources to their enemies? Can the Fez conference be considered a success for the U.S. and Israel?

Fez will be a turning point for the Arab and Muslim peoples' struggle against global imperialism and Zionism in the region and the proliferation of Islamic governments.

CSO: 4600/772

PEACE MOVEMENT'S FRIEDLANDER ANALYZES CURRENT ISSUES

Paris LE MATIN in French 9 Aug 82 p 12

[Interview with Saul Friedlander, leader of Peace Now, by Maurice Szafran, in Jerusalem on 7 August 1982]

[Text] Saul Friedlander, a historian with a worldwide reputation, is also a leader of the Peace Now movement, which constitutes the most radical opposition to the policy being pursued by Menachem Begin in Lebanon and the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Long close to the Labor Party, Saul Friedlander asserts that the collapse of the opposition is a "tragedy" for Israeli society.

On Saturday evening in Jerusalem, he explained to our special correspondent why Israel would carry its undertaking in Beirut through to the end, why the West Bank issue depends on the aftermath of the Lebanon affair, and why the Jewish state is in danger of "authoritarianism." Men like Saul Friedlander are currently isolated in their country.

LE MATIN: The Israeli Army is on the point of completing its job. In your opinion, will Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon, his minister of defense, order the army to go all the way?

Saul Friedlander: Yes, it is almost certain. At this point, Begin and Sharon have gone so far that they cannot flinch from the final step. Especially since they see only military and political benefits to be gained from it. This war in Lebanon had basically three objectives. First, to recreate a strong Lebanon. Let us say it straight out: a Lebanon dominated by the Christians. Second, to smash, perhaps for good, the PLO's military potential. Third, and most important, to shatter the Palestinian nationalist organization. In that way, with the PLO being liquidated politically, nothing would stand in the way of the Israeli nation's expansion on the West Bank. First there will be autonomy, and then, inevitably, annexation. That is the main goal of the war in Lebanon: to wipe out the Palestinian nationalist mortgage that weighs on the West Bank. Just consider that over half the population supports the government. Polls indicate that Begin's and Sharon's popularity is rising as the operation continues. If there were elections today, the Likud--the government coalition--would win hands down.

[Question] And you don't believe that there will be any obstruction by the Americans?

[Answer] The Americans? I don't think they are unhappy at all, even if they are protesting. There is a strategic anger and nothing more. For once I believe in the correctness of the Israeli Government's theses. Despite a few disagreements, the American and Israeli objectives are the same: to make the PLO leave Beirut.

[Question] I have nevertheless gotten the impression that part of the Israeli population is beginning to be alarmed by the extent of the Israeli Army's casualties.

[Answer] It is true that that could present an obstacle. On Tuesday night alone, there were 18 dead and 70 wounded, and that shocked the country. There is also another real fear, which is that a sizable number of civilians in West Beirut will be killed. And regardless of what one might say about Begin and Sharon, they are not indifferent to that double aspect. But they are not the kind to draw back, and in the days to come, the process will continue to its conclusion. One way or another.

[Question] People here in Jerusalem like to talk about dissension and disagreements that show up between Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon. Do you really believe that they exist?

[Answer] To begin with, it must be realized that without Begin, Sharon is nothing. He has no political party behind him, and in Israeli political life, that is a decisive factor. Sharon is a kind of bulldozer who has asserted himself on the strength of his personality and his extremist attitudes. Neither should it be forgotten that he is detested within the Herut, Begin's party. He is regarded as an import. With one slight difference, and it is an important one. In the nationalist camp, there is admiration for two people: Begin and Sharon. In case of an election, Sharon will be a formidable asset. Begin will need him.

[Question] But do they agree on objectives?

[Answer] I have the impression that in the long run, they want the same thing: annexation of the West Bank. It may be that Begin is the mystic and that Sharon is defending similar positions for political and strategic reasons that are apparently more concrete. But let us not be deceived. While it may seem that Sharon is the more pragmatic of the two, he is ready to defend the most brazen and craziest theses. When he talks about remaking the map of the Middle East, he believes it. He has an extraordinary army, and he knows it. There is an absolute disproportion in strength between the Tsahal and all its potential opponents in the Middle East, united or not. If he is able, Sharon will not let the opportunity slip.

[Question] What opportunity?

[Answer] The opportunity to liquidate the Syrian military force. To cause chaos in Jordan and thus facilitate annexation of the West Bank by creating a

Palestinian state in place of the Hashemite Kingdom. Sharon is also capable of threatening Saudi Arabia if the occasion presents itself. I repeat: Begin is the mystic, but he is nevertheless the most cautious. Begin the mystic reins in Sharon the realist, rather than the other way around.

[Question] Don't people in Israel wonder about the apparent political success won by the PLO since the start of the conflict? Hasn't the Palestinian organization seen its international political audience grow considerably?

[Answer] That is indeed the paradox. The Lebanon affair will probably put an end to the PLO as an organization and a military power. But Begin's policy has had the effect of putting the spotlight on the PLO as the political expression of Palestinian nationalism. And it is very possible that there will be an extraordinary boomerang effect. Perhaps as a result of the Beirut operation, Begin and Sharon will find themselves facing extremely strong pressure demanding recognition of Palestinian national existence. And if so, what appears in the short term to be a victory would, in the medium term, result in a political impasse.

[Question] Let us imagine for a moment that Yasir Arafat has stated officially and publicly that he recognizes the State of Israel and that he favors the establishment of a Palestinian state next door to the Jewish state. How would Begin react? Would that create a shock within the country?

[Answer] Begin recently told an American senator from Massachusetts who had asked him the same question: "We will never have discussions with Arafat and the PLO, regardless of their statements." Let us be unambiguous: this government rejects all possibility of negotiation with the Palestinian nationalists.

As for the population, I no longer think it can be upset by such a gesture from Arafat. It will have the feeling that he had to do it because he was beaten, driven away, and eliminated. And the Israeli Government will have no difficulty in demonstrating the truth of that. On the other hand, if new Palestinian leadership emerges in coming months, then there is a possibility. But the Israelis would be reluctant in any case to accept a gesture from a pursued and vanquished Arafat.

[Question] In that ultranationalist context, what is the significance of the 80,000 demonstrators from the Peace Now movement who recently gathered in Tel Aviv?

[Answer] They are saving the country's honor. They show that there is a different Israel--people who want something else. Let us have no illusions. That demonstration represented our best shot. In electoral terms, it represents four or five seats in Parliament at most: about 30 percent of the population opposes the policy being pursued by Begin. We cannot get rid of them completely, but all the same....

[Question] You are not even mentioning the Labor Party. Doesn't it have any alternative to offer?

[Answer] Faced with the government's policy with respect to the Arabs on the West Bank and in Lebanon, the Labor Party is incapable of presenting different and coherent proposals. On all those points, it is obliged to follow Likud, the coalition in power, so as not to lose its nationalist voters. It is not by chance that some people have nicknamed the Labor Party "Likud B." All of that is easy to explain. It is a divided party in which personal quarrels hold center stage. The party presents the image of being knocked out. And as far as the war in Lebanon is concerned, some of its own internal groups are more vehement than Begin himself. Shimon Peres, the Labor leader, is an acrobat. He has no strength and is a tightrope walker who is trying, for better or for worse, to keep his party together.

[Question] Don't you have the feeling that you are at a turning point from which Israel will emerge to become increasingly chauvinistic and nationalistic and less and less liberal and open?

[Answer] This is certainly a turning point in the history of Israel. The moderation desired and imposed by the various Labor governments has disappeared. Over the past year, the real Begin has been revealed. Until 1981, on the eve of his reelection, he stuck to a prudent and reserved attitude, the reason being that he was not sure of staying in office. The previous governments had done everything to keep Israeli society open and liberal. They had checked any nationalist extremism that might have existed within Zionism. To begin with--from 1977 to 1981--Begin had more or less followed that same line. But then the certainty of his reelection gave him formidable assurance. He decided to attack the French nuclear reactors in Iraq. He tried to settle the conflicts on the West Bank with bulldozers. He placed "his" men everywhere. He tried to restrict the freedom of radio and television reporters. And lastly, he launched the war in Lebanon.

The result is that some people are not hesitating now to talk about the beginnings of fascism. Why? What we are seeing in Israel today is a real cult of personality. Begin is a charismatic leader--a demagogue who plays on the most simplistic themes. We are also experiencing the growing use of brute force by both the police and the army. Soon, perhaps, we will get our heads bashed in on the streets for being too open in our opposition to the official line. And all of that in the name of an extremist nationalist mystique with a strong smell of fascism: the celebration of and permanent recourse to soil and blood.

11798

CSO: 4419/23

YOSI SARID ANALYZES LEBANON AFTERMATH

Paris L'HUMANITE in French 24 Aug 82 p 6

[Interview with Yosi Sarid, Labor Party member of the Knesset, by Francoise Germain-Robin, in Tel Aviv in August 1982]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 Aug--Yosi Sarid occupies a special place in Israel's Labor Party and one that is very often uncomfortable because of his stands on the war in Lebanon and the Palestinian issue. He is one of the rare leaders of the Labor Party to have clearly stated his support for the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and to have clearly opposed the invasion of Lebanon. Yosi Sarid agreed to answer L'HUMANITE's questions on the consequences of the war being carried on in Lebanon by Israel and on the current situation in Israel.

Francoise Germain-Robin: Now that the Palestinian fighters have just begun to leave Beirut, how do you analyze this war and what, in your opinion, will be its consequences?

Yosi Sarid: Unfortunately, I am afraid that this war is not over. The Israeli Government still has objectives that it has not fully achieved in Lebanon. The first of those is the establishment of a new order--a new government--in Lebanon, and unfortunately, we are very deeply involved in that process through our military presence.

Another objective is the expulsion of all Syrians and all Palestinian fighters from Lebanon. And there are still Syrian soldiers and PLO members around Tripoli in the north and in the Bekaa Valley in the east. I do not believe they will leave Lebanon voluntarily. The Israeli Government has committed itself to making all of them leave, and experience shows that if it does not succeed by political means, it will not hesitate to use the other--military--means. That is the main reason why I am very concerned. The two armies--Israeli and Syrian--are very dangerously close to each other. Every day we hear of an increasing number of incidents, and I am afraid that the danger of another war in Lebanon is very close.

[Question] But Prime Minister Begin has just announced a long period of peace for Israel.

[Answer] The facts are more important than anything Begin might say, and unfortunately, there is a strong chance that the war will continue.

I think that the main task today for the Labor Party, which has not played a very clear role in the past, is to try to stop the government. It must say openly and firmly that the war is over, that its objectives are not of vital interest to Israel, that not one more soldier is to die in Lebanon, that Israeli forces must withdraw from Lebanon, and that the government must do everything possible to insure peace.

[Question] What do you think must be done to insure peace?

[Answer] We have mentioned Lebanon, where Israel has no business being. Now it is necessary to talk about the Palestinian problem, which is at the heart of everything. I was almost surprised to realize that according to a recent poll, most Israelis do not think that the recent events in Lebanon are likely to solve the Palestinian problem. My personal position is well known and has been for many years. I said well before the war that Israel should recognize the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and that Israel should negotiate with all Palestinians who accept the existence of Israel, including the PLO if the PLO accepts that principle. I have not changed my opinion since the war--quite the contrary--and I hope that in the near future the Israelis will meet more and more Palestinians on the basis of mutual and simultaneous recognition.

[Question] Are you yourself prepared to meet with Yasir Arafat?

[Answer] I said a year ago that I was prepared to meet any Palestinian, including Chairman Arafat, if that meeting would be based on mutual recognition. I was very sharply attacked for that in Israel, even within my own party. I am prepared to meet with Yasir Arafat, but on condition that the meeting serve a useful purpose. It is said that he is now going to Tunisia. Well, if there is reason to believe that Yasir Arafat is prepared to accept peaceful coexistence between a Palestinian state and a Jewish state, I can assure you that it won't take me 5 minutes to get my bags and leave for Tunis or anywhere else to talk to him. I hope it will be possible in the near future.

[Question] Your party said on Wednesday that the time had come for a bold initiative to solve the Palestinian problem. What does that involve?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the majority in my party approved the Jordanian option. [Editor's note: This refers to the creation of a Palestinian state in Jordan, a solution also advocated by Begin's Likud, the only difference being that the Labor Party would agree to include a portion of the occupied land on the West Bank of the Jordan River.] I don't believe that such a solution is acceptable either to the Palestinians or to the Arab world as a whole. There are three solutions: the Likud's, the Labor Party's, and the third, which I mentioned to you just a moment ago. If I thought it would threaten Israel's security, I would not have proposed it. But I feel, on the contrary, that a gradual arrangement on the West Bank leading to the creation of a Palestinian state would guarantee Israel's vital interests and involve the fewest risks. We have shown that we are strong enough to take a few risks.

[Question] In your opinion, what consequences will the war have for Israeli political life?

[Answer] I think that in the future, more and more Israelis are going to realize that the war has not solved the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian problem has been seen throughout the world as a crucial one. Never has it exploded so brutally. In Israel itself, many people feel that it must be solved now. Perhaps, paradoxically, Begin and Sharon will someday be regarded as the founders of the Palestinian state.

As far as the consequences for Israeli political life are concerned, I believe it is still too soon to see them. Most people today are thoroughly confused, and it will take them a long time to understand and analyze what has happened. But our society has suffered a very violent shock whose effects will remain for a long time. For the first time, the unity between the population and the army in wartime has been broken. A real crime against our society has been committed by undertaking a controversial war, because our strength lies in our unity. This war has shattered the unity of Israeli society.

11798

CSO: 4419/23

MOROCCO

DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN RURAL ECONOMY EXAMINED

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 31 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Larbi Douliazane: "Promoting the Moroccan Mountains and Developing the Life and Rural Mountain Economy"]

[Excerpt] In all the mountainous regions of Europe where Alpine sciences and techniques were created, it is now acknowledged that the rural mountain economy cannot achieve a balance and thus, keep at home adolescents drawn to the cities because of the constant influence of the media if it only modernizes and expands its traditional agricultural activities (farming, breeding, forestry) and handicrafts and produces more sophisticated products (bee keeping, tree planting, etc).

This balance is not always achieved by adding small family, food-producing industries (canneries, dairies and cheese production, etc) or industrial subcontracting (making spare and small parts and component assembly, etc) to these traditional activities. Yet this second stage of rural endeavor requires energy (mainly electric energy which small hydraulic power plants can easily supply in the mountains).

Only mountain tourism (in the high or medium-range mountains, in the form of diffuse or concentrated tourism) with the many tertiary sector services which it needs, can provide the indispensable addition to this balance and bring prosperity to the mountain sector. The purpose of this article is to see where we stand about this last phase of mountain activity in Morocco.

The Moroccan Mountains and Alpine Tourism

Except for some modest, local initiatives by a few experienced, usually benevolent amateurs, no extensive tourist effort has been made thus far in Morocco for and in the mountains. The one winter sports center in the high mountains (Oukaïmeden) created without a specific, long-range plan has only a regional or local value. This is true in the medium-range mountains (jbel Hebri, Michliffen and even Bou Iblan).

Yet the Moroccan mountains (especially the Haut Atlas which covers a territory of some 100,000 square km and has a population of more than 2 million) have, along with a very pleasant climate, the possibility of developing extensively all kinds of tourist activities in a high mountain region comparable to the most beautiful mountains of Europe--for any excursion (walking, riding or skiing), for vacations or visits for health purposes, for alpine sports at all levels in the winter and summer (mountain skiing, cross-country skiing, free form skiing or climbing), water sports (canoeing, kayaking on rivers and sailing on natural and man-made lakes) and aerial sports like gliding.

However, nothing has been written about the vast high mountain area of Morocco which would make it better known.

It is high time to do so and be aware that the people in the mountains are impatient to participate actively in the development of the tourist industry. For some years they have had a glimpse of it through the unilateral, quick and chaotic activity of some foreign travel agencies and vacation clubs organizing summer expeditions (called treks) in certain mountain ranges (Toubkal, Siroua, Haut Atlas Central), through the activities of mountain climbing clubs from abroad and through rare individuals climbing on their own (Toubkal Mountains) or skiing in the mountains of the Haut Atlas Central in the winter or spring.

Types and Terrain for Alpine Tourism and Its Development in the Haut Atlas

Usually and quite properly, diffuse mountain tourism (expeditions), which requires only a small infrastructure and spread-out, gradual investments is distinguished from Alpine tourism in centers (winter, summer and water sports) which requires extensive infrastructure and, from the start, substantial investments.

In the following article, we will limit ourselves to the problems of the first stage and, hence, discuss the ways and means to develop diffuse Alpine tourism (expeditions) and the prospects for its expansion.

This rural tourism of expeditions has, in recent years, been extremely successful particularly in Europe in the medium-range and especially the high mountains. A typical example is "the Great Crossing of the Alps," winter and summer excursions in the medium and high altitudes and valleys from Nice to Switzerland and Austria), attracting an ever-growing number of tourists, climbers and skiers from all social classes tired of the crowds, atmosphere and promiscuity which have taken over the major winter sports centers, particularly the integrated ones. This tourism, which demands physical effort and broadmindedness of its adherents, puts those who respect the high regions in contact with the people there and the latter thus participate closely and immediately in the developments involved in this type.

This new method, born in the Alps of the desire for mountains not disfigured by hordes of vacationers gathered together in modern, overly mechanized and commercialized sports centers with heavy infrastructure, dreams of faraway, unspoiled mountains; a good climate and an exotic atmosphere would provide an additional attraction.

This type of tourism could be widely developed in Morocco which has a huge, well-preserved medium and high mountain area at a reasonable distance from European capitals; it provides a feeling of being far away, a mild climate and almost unexplored areas ready to be discovered.

However, currently, there is almost no light infrastructure which is essential to the development of this kind of tourism--particularly in the areas of information, organization of itineraries for long expeditions, methods of access to the mountain, lodging and health treat centers. Any excursion into the high mountains of the Haut Atlas is still a minor expedition which discourages amateurs.

There are no reliable Moroccan tour directors for this method, thus the job of leading the few foreign groups trying to explore the Atlas is left to foreigners who do not know this mountain and its isolated world.

The Atlas Mountains (which belong to the great chains of the globe along with the Alps, Andes, Himalayas and the Rockies) have a mountain world which differs from all other chains in its structures, relief, climate and pastoral civilization of another era. Rather than initiating scattered projects or going astray with personal initiatives, we must study on location various clearly defined aspects of a model in order to define precisely the guidelines and development of high mountain tourism and create a national policy to promote the mountains. This can be done advantageously by learning from the experience gained, more or less successfully, in the Alps, the cradle some hundred years ago of mountain climbing which bears its name.

In this context, it should be pointed out that the Haut Atlas Central range is the largest, generally the highest and the most diversified in the whole Atlas chain, the only one having, and having extensively, all natural elements for all tourist activities and mountain sports.

In this mountain, one sector stands out to organize all aspects of rural mountain development. That is the high dorsal at an altitude of 4,000 meters in the Rat-Mgoun, Wawgoulzat, Azurki and Aroudan groups which surround the high valleys of the Ait Bougmez, Ait Bouwlli and haut Ahansal, relatively well inhabited with a mountain people already somewhat sensitive to tourism.

It is an exemplary sector forming a true mountain unit. Therefore, it should be chosen to concentrate all types of activity and learn from experience in order to establish a policy on the future development of the mountains. In addition, it is located in the newly created Azilal Province and these activities will not be hindered by constraining precedents.

Activities to Develop Alpine Tourism

The activities carried out in this particular phase are on three levels and must be developed in three stages (which may overlap according to the locations and circumstances). They are, of course, related to those done in the first two phases of mountain economy; then an overall picture of the economy may be drawn up. They are:

Works to study and promote the mountains and instruct the mountain people about the development of Alpine tourism;

Projects to protect the mountain and its culture:

Projects to set up and develop the tourist industry proper in the framework of an integrated mountain economy.

Promotion of the Mountains and Instruction of the Mountain People

This type of activities must:

Make known and publicize the Moroccan mountains;

Train mountain youths with mountain skills;

Launch and supervise operations needing only light infrastructures;

Study the economic, social and cultural impact of these activities on the mountain environment and their effect on the lives of the people;

From the experience gained, define a general policy of Alpine tourism which can be meshed perfectly with a policy to develop the mountain land.

This stage mainly requires choosing sites, educating, instructing and providing advanced training and information. Specific activities undertaken will be rather modest, within the reach of individuals and local groups with the help of some appropriate aid.

At this stage, from the start, structures for organization and employment and tax-exempt, non-profit cultural and philanthropic organizations

which can put forth a lofty philosophy of Alpine activity, see to the preservation of the patrimony and the unselfish promotion of the mountains, must be established and encouraged.

The organization structure must be created at the level of the mountain range or group of ranges, set up as a lay out and development unit in the form (for example) of a commissariat endowed with the powers to act and coordinate and the resolute will to succeed. This commissariat would be under an administrative council in which all appropriate ministries would be represented.

We must remember that organization is the main strength for activities in the mountains and it must be devoted to:

Raising the consciousness of the mountain people about their environment;

Setting up and developing structures for activities essential to the coherent disposition and the harmonious development of the Moroccan mountain ranges both for those who live there and those who come there.

The main cultural body should be a Moroccan mountain federation which can reflect on the technical, ecological and social problems raised by mountain development, make recommendations, give advice and be responsible for rescue and training efforts.

In all large modern countries with mountainous areas, there are national mountain federations, distinct from national ski federations devoted to developing the sport and organizing competitions.

Since 1959, there has been a FRMM [Royal Federation of the Mountains] in Morocco. Without enough members and a sufficiently aware public, it merged with the equally poorly endowed FRMS [Royal Skiing Federation] in 1963 to consolidate their meager resources and their initial efforts to promote a true mountain policy.

It seems desirable and is highly recommended that these two federations again be separated because, although their activities use the same physical structure, they have radically different goals.

Protecting the Mountains

The type of activity must protect the environment, beautiful places and the cultural and artistic patrimony by setting up:

Nature, high-altitude parks and ecological reserves (in theory, set up at the national level) which will respect pastoral life, the heart of the high country;

Regional parks (or other organizations, such as units to develop the mountain range or developmental units to chart the basin) combining protective efforts with the introduction of a modern infrastructure (access roads, electrification, sanitation improvements, etc) and a conscious policy to promote the mountain environment;

Sites and monuments designated for their picturesque, artistic or cultural qualities.

This stage basically requires judicial, legislative and/or administrative actions. It must, in fact, be begun almost simultaneously with the above-mentioned activities.

Development, Growth of the Mountain Economy

In the context of activities proper to Alpine tourism, this means equipping well-defined sites reserved for this purpose with:

Winter and/or summer sports complex(es)

Water sports center(s);

Aerial sports center(s);

Vacation, rest and treatment center(s).

At this stage, investments beyond the local and regional capabilities are needed to develop heavy infrastructure and build the complexes and centers but the local and regional levels absolutely must participate.

Details About and List of Alpine Tourist Activities

In the first stage:

These activities must be done simultaneously:

Training young people in the mountain trades (climbing techniques, reception, lodging, health treatments, management, tour guiding, etc);

Physically organizing rural tourism for mountain expeditions (on foot, horseback or skiing) by setting up rest stops along the way, cabins and shelters mainly, marking and setting up paths for long expeditions;

Providing travel information about the Moroccan mountains and the Haut Atlas Central, in particular, and, in general, setting up the initial structures to market the product, mountain tourism.

Organizing, which is the key to good development and its real impetus;

Studying carefully the mountain environment.

At this stage:

The mountain occupations are basically tour directors, Alpine guides, Alpine sports instructors, porters and mule drivers, personnel for high-altitude shelters and small rural hotels.

For the harmonious, broad development of rural tourism (expeditions), a light infrastructure is needed, based on:

Trail itineraries for long expeditions, marked out and specially chosen for their esthetic, artistic and athletic qualities. A very handsome title could be "Great Crossing of the Haut Atlas;"

Lodging and health treatment facilities in the form of rural accommodations with the inhabitants, lodging along the way in the villages (communal or private), family inns in the countryside, cabins and protected high-altitude shelters located at key points along the routes of long expeditions. Assistance must be given to encourage the people to make such arrangements;

Means of transportation and access from the airports (and cities) but especially from the mountain centers and towns (in this case, Azilal, Demnat and Wawizaght) located at the edge of the unpaved road networks which can usually be traveled in jeeps. Beyond these roads, mules or bearers must be used.

Practical information is indispensable, through specialized magazines, beginner books on the Moroccan mountains and/or the particular range, folders, topography guides and especially the preparation of itineraries for the "Great Crossing of the Haut Atlas."

An office of tourism in the main town of the province (and before any other at Azilal) should be set up which will coordinate information, organize expeditions and outings, reserve transportation, lodging and shelters.

The mountain environment and its people will be studied and summaries and outlines provided.

The organizational structure (which must extend beyond the field of tourist activities) will be set up and the first small groups put into place.

In the second stage:

The protective efforts contemplated in the preceding stage will be extended and the judicial, legislative and administrative texts essential to effective operations will be drawn up.

Action Program for Alpine Tourism

In the first stage, it is advisable to set up simultaneously:

A Moroccan mountain experimental center for training in the tourist sector which will do its field work in the rural communes of ne Tabant and Zawyat Ahansal.

This center could be located at Ait Bougmez, specifically on Lake Izourar where Alpine sports can be taught; this is an indispensable basis for training tour directors, guides and instructors.

The theory could be taught first perhaps at Tabant but later in one or several technical classes at the Azilal High School which may later become the technical training school for mountain occupations (all occupations) for the entire country.

Courses in the Alps (refresher courses or advanced training) should be arranged for an exclusive group of students destined to become in turn teachers or officials responsible for the development of Alpine tourism in Morocco.

9479

CSO: 4519/314

FINANCIAL STATUS FOR 1981 SHOWS DECREASED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Aug 82 p 12

[Article by Roland Delcour]

[Text] Although Morocco benefited this year from abundant rain and a good harvest, the country does not seem to have emerged from the bad economic and financial situation in which two consecutive years of drought in 1980 and 1981 had placed it. Besides, the drought is not the only cause of the slump. Such appears to be Morocco's situation halfway through the second year of the new 5-Year Plan.

In a press conference held on 20 May, Mr Douiri, minister of planning, had given some indications of the achievement of this plan during its first year; in other words, in 1981. According to the minister, the achievement had been "much more positive than could have been expected given the circumstances, especially the drought which struck the country and the staggering increases in the dollar, raising the price of Morocco's petroleum imports even higher."

Of course, prices had increased by 12 percent in 1981, the minister had admitted. As for the gross domestic product, according to Mr Douiri, it had declined by approximately 1 percent, as agricultural production had suffered decreases ranging from 20 to 50 percent, the latter percentage referring to grains. But, according to him, the public sector had made it possible to make up for these losses to a certain extent.

In any case, two reports which have just been published, one by the BMCE [Moroccan Foreign Trade Bank] and the other by the Bank of Morocco, give a much less favorable impression of 1981 than does Mr Douiri. According to BMCE, imports increased by 30.8 percent last year, while exports grew by only 26 percent, with the rate of coverage hardly over 50 percent. A more serious development: industrial production, which should have made up for the catastrophic results in agriculture, declined by 2 percent. In certain sectors, the decline was much greater; especially in construction (-11 percent) whose importance to employment is known.

However, the bank calculates the drop in grain production in 1981 at close to 50 percent, as does Mr Douiri. Even citrus fruit production, which benefits

from irrigation (in Morocco 700,000 hectares, or 10 percent of the cultivable area, is irrigated), dropped by 6 percent. Early vegetables (down 4 percent), oils (down 3.5 percent), and wine (6.5 percent) will also have suffered the effects of the drought.

The Bank of Morocco's report has just confirmed the picture painted by the BMCE. According to the lending institution, the gross domestic product declined by 1.6 percent (31.864 billion dirhams). As the newspaper AL BAYANE, an organ of the Moroccan communist party (PPS [Party of Progress and Socialism]), noted in an editorial entitled "The Confession", this is the strongest decline since 1966. As for the central bank, it concluded: "Recovery must be encouraged while safeguarding the people's purchasing power and avoiding an increase in the wage-price spiral."

Phosphate Sales Down

The first figures available for the first quarter of 1982 hardly allow us to note this recovery. Economic indicators, particularly the percentage of imports covered by exports and the rate of inflation, point to a deterioration in Morocco's internal and external finances.

Thus, for the first 5 months of 1982, the trade deficit amounted to 5.563 million dirhams as compared to 4.684 million for the corresponding period in 1981, an increase of 18.8 percent. As for the annual rate of inflation, it approached 15 percent for the same period in 1982. Price increased picked up briskly as of the beginning of the year, especially due to the increased costs of food products.

From January to May, imports increased by 11.2 percent, which pertains not only to food and petroleum products, but also to all consumer goods categories. On the other hand, exports only grew by 3.5 percent. For these first 5 months of 1982, even sales of phosphates, which are Morocco's great resource, declined, amounting to 1.254 million dirhams as compared to 1.550 million for the same period in 1981. Only phosphoric acid exports showed a slight increase.

Of course, Morocco can resort to foreign aid--particularly from the Arab countries and the French, to cover all or part of the ambitious investments planned under the 1981-1985 5-Year Plan--and it is not depriving itself of this opportunity. But, this is at the expense of the Treasury, whose total expenses have already increased by 29 percent for 1981 alone. The kingdom, whose foreign debt must be well over \$7 billion, will have to devote a larger and larger share of its budget to debt servicing.

9693

CSO: 4519/272

PROBLEMS OF MEAT PRICES AND SUPPLY DISCUSSED

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 30 Jul 82 p 6

[Text] Meat is expensive, very expensive; this is no secret to anyone. Housewives or heads of families cannot help being indignant when butchers in the markets advertise beef or lamb at 38 and 40 dirhams a kilogram.

Of course not all cuts are sold at this price, but the differences between the cheap cuts and the others are not so great once you have boned them and discarded the waste.

But, nevertheless, the butchers are not breaking regulations. They are setting their prices within the legal margin provided and based on prices at the time of slaughter.

What are we to conclude from this, and can we hope to see prices become more affordable? This is what we asked slaughterhouse officials and professional wholesale butchers, stockbreeders, and those who fatten livestock for market.

Meat follows the law of supply and demand. If it is being sold at such high prices, it is because the quantities being placed on the market are still insufficient to make prices go down.

Production is not regulated, the markets are free, and prices can vary considerably depending on the very wide range of stock available: there are numerous grades; the breeds and the farms are just so many factors.

For, at present we are still in a crisis period. We are still suffering the effects of the drought which thinned the Moroccan livestock population considerably.

1981, with its drought, was catastrophic. No longer able to feed their animals, breeders, especially the small producers, sold them at very low prices.

"Meat prices did not drop much during this period, this is because the animals were so thin that they did not have much meat on them," commented the wholesale butchers.

In a recent issue we published figures showing the size of the losses suffered in the livestock population; 1982 should be a year to rebuild the livestock population.

In order to rebuild the livestock population, less is being supplied to the markets.

The shortage of both cattle and sheep is estimated at between 10 and 15 percent.

Between the spring and fall of 1981, Morocco lost 28 percent of its sheep population and 14 percent of its cattle.

Rebuilding the livestock population will certainly be much easier for sheep than for cattle, since the sheep's reproductive cycle is shorter.

The government measures taken last year to prohibit sheep slaughter during 'Id [al-Fitr] were extremely helpful and it is felt that the 1.5 to 2 million sheep saved enabled supply to be almost normal for around 3 months.

If supply has now improved, nevertheless it remains below demand, a demand which has grown in the cities and especially in Casablanca. It is difficult to explain this growth in demand, which may be caused by a slight improvement in the purchasing power of the middle class or again exodus from the rural areas to the cities, or just by population growth which causes increased consumption.

At present, in order to reach a better balance between supply and demand, it would be necessary to increase the meat supply by around 10 percent; not in the number of animals slaughtered, since they are often very thin, but in tonnage. Only at this level could the prices begin to drop.

Government Measures

But, how is this new balance to be achieved? This government has made two decisions which should bring about preliminary improvements:

- (1) Slaughtering female sheep is absolutely prohibited.
- (2) Licenses have been granted to import 10,000 cattle, but with specific conditions, as these are to be cattle for fattening and may not be slaughtered until 100 days after they are imported.

These measures are aimed mostly at tiding us over to the end of 1982. If the measures in themselves appear to be worthwhile and effective, they have caused wholesale butchers to have certain reservations.

We are in complete agreement on not slaughtering female sheep, they say, but although this measure is easy to apply in municipal slaughterhouses, how is secret slaughtering to be controlled?

This is a true massacre. Not only are females being slaughtered, but also very young animals, heifers whose meat weight is insignificant today and of which there will be a severe shortage tomorrow when it will be necessary to reproduce the herd. Slaughtering should be more stringently controlled.

Not only are animals killed secretly and thus without any administrative control, but furthermore without any sanitary regulation, sometimes endangering the health of consumers.

Even in the municipal slaughterhouses, young animals which should spend many months in the pastures before being offered to consumers are accepted.

Accepting them goes against the desired goal of a normal meat supply. Animals are being offered at 40 to 50 kg when they could reasonably reach 8 to 10 times this weight.

This is a waste and the administration should take action in this area first.

We may wonder why the small stockbreeder gets rid of animals when they are both too young and too thin and why he goes through the black market.

The wholesale butchers and stock fatteners explain: "Because of an urgent need for money. Funds are dried up and sometimes farm credit payments are due and are accompanied by threats of foreclosure."

Some peasants state that despite government measures announcing the deferment of farm credit payments due to the consequences of the drought, the payments have been required and without delay.

Fighting Secret Slaughtering

As for resorting to secret slaughter, this is motivated by the few extra centimes the breeders get. "While the black market pays more, it is able to," say the wholesale butchers, "Since it is not subject to the same charges and taxes as the municipal slaughterhouses."

"Thus, in going through official channels, one must pay the charity tax of 25 centimes a kilogram, the refrigeration tax of 10 centimes, a tax of 20 centimes, the price of slaughter and a few additional centimes, thus totaling approximately 70 centimes a kilogram which can be saved on the black market and therefore can provide a rebate to the supplier."

The solution therefore is rigorous control; since in Casablanca today, for example, it is possible to have animals slaughtered in the street 300 meters from the municipal slaughterhouse: males, females, fat or thin, healthy or unfit for consumption...

The second set of measures also requires some explanation. Aware of the significant reduction in the livestock population and certainly fearing that the shortage would worsen by the end of the year, the administration has decided to unfreeze imports but only for a single category of animals.

Licenses are granted for animals to be fattened for market, which consequently and in application of the law, must be fed for 100 days from the time they are unloaded in Morocco.

"A mistake," say the wholesale butchers and the stock breeders, and they explain. "First of all," they say, "it is very difficult, if not impossible, to find such animals in Europe."

"The French breeders--for it is from France that the imports come--will not sell livestock which is not fattened. They do not sell any cattle under 450 kg, in other words, butcher's beef which is ready to be slaughtered upon delivery."

One of Morocco's major stockbreeders, who holds import licenses under the new measures, has just spent 17 days in France knocking on all the doors to try to find steers or cows corresponding to the standards proposed in Rabat.

He saw all his customary suppliers and others. Impossible. And, so as not to return home emptyhanded, he bought what was offered to him, in other words, cattle to be slaughtered, the very ones which were unloaded in Casablanca a few days ago.

But, here he ran up against the legislation and he has been unable to deliver his animals to the slaughterhouses. He will have to pen them for the required 100 days, and feed them although they are already ready for slaughter, running great risks of losses with these animals who are poorly adapted, finding the climate in Morocco quite different from their native Normandy or Picardy. Just as with humans, a different kind of food does not always agree with them.

So, the wholesale butchers and stockbreeders propose their solution: "Import enough and sell it to the butchers so that we will simultaneously have the time to fatten the local animals and thus rebuild the livestock population."

They state that prices could drop immediately and give as an example the recent sale of rejected imported animals which were injured during transport. Sale of these animals had been authorized. This was the case for about 30 magnificent animals and it made prices drop by 2 dirhams a kilogram.

During this time, they say, we could feed and fatten the local animals, since there is no shortage of cattlefeed and the prices are much lower than they were a few months ago.

Last January bran was selling for 1.10 dirhams a kilogram. Today it is priced at 0.40. Beet pulp has dropped from 2.50 to 0.85; and fodder from 1.75 to 0.40.

So, the path has been laid out, they say in conclusion. Let us hope that they are right and that in the end meat prices return to levels affordable to everyone.

CHINA TRADE TEAMS SURVEY MARKET

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 29 Aug 82 p 3

[Article by Suresh Shah]

[Text]

JEDDAH, Aug. 28 — Two major trade missions from the Republic of China have arrived on a market survey and export promotion tour of the Kingdom. Both missions, organized by the China External Trade Development Council, are already meeting importers and chamber officials.

A 24-member trade group arrived here Thursday, made up of reputable manufacturers and prominent exporters of household goods, garments, hardware, building materials, sanitaryware and bathroom fittings, footwear, electrical and electronic products, transport products and other general items such as leather goods, cosmetics, cutlery, tools and jewelry. It will be in Jeddah until Sept. 4, in Riyadh from Sept. 5 to 9 and Dammam Sept. 10 to 12.

Another 19-member food packers mission arrived Friday and stays in Jeddah until Tuesday. They will visit Riyadh Sept. 1 to 3 and Dammam Sept. 4 to 7.

Both missions will meet with the local importers, chambers of commerce and representatives of super markets. The Chinese Embassy has arranged a reception here Sunday evening to acquaint the mission members to local businessmen, and importers.

The trade group's secretary, En-Lei Tuan, told *Arab News* Saturday, that some of the members have local agents and many are trying to find local partners. The exports of consumer goods from China to Saudi Arabia is limited compared to the total imports of such goods in the Kingdom from all countries. "We have come here to tell local businessmen as to who we are and to show them what we can supply," he said.

The food packers mission to the Middle East and Africa had a meeting with members of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and

Industry Saturday. The Mission Director Jimmy Huang said so far there is not much export of frozen foods from the Republic of China to Saudi Arabia. "We are now starting the exports to the Kingdom and we are competitive pricewise," he added.

ROC manufacturers have been supplying goods to regular buyers mainly from West Germany, France, Japan and the United States. "Now we have expanded the production capacity to supply our quality products to Middle East markets," said Huang. During its stay, the mission will make a market study in the Kingdom. Members offer fresh ginger, dried garlic, black mushroom, dried mushroom, abalone mushroom, frozen asparagus, frozen mushroom, broccoli, frozen sweet corn, frozen pineapple, frozen vegetables and fruits, fresh agricultural products, frozen seafoods, fruit juices, biscuits and candies, pie, sauce, vinegar and other condiments.

The mission deputy director and Sun Star Frozen Foods Co., general manager, T.T. Lo, said his company is one of the largest exporters of frozen foods in ROC and its annual exports average \$6 million of frozen asparagus, mushroom, broccoli, sweet corn and pineapple. "Its total supply amounts to \$20 million, including local markets," he added.

Another major exporter TaiMei Food Industrial Corporation Manager C.C. Tsai said his company exports about \$4 million worth of frozen seafoods, frozen vegetables and fruits. Other major exporters represented in the mission include Chen Hsiang Foods Industrial Co., and Tong Zong Frozen Foods Factory. They say their prices are competitive and they expect get a good response.

INTERIOR MINISTER DISCUSSES CIVIL DEFENSE PROJECTS

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 31 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

JEDDAH, Aug. 30 (SPA) — Interior Minister Prince Naif signed a SR600 million contract Sunday with Kawasaki Heavy Industries of Japan for the supply of 10 helicopters for civil defense, training Saudi Arabian personnel and provide maintenance for five years.

Delivery of the helicopters will start within four months Prince Naif said. The contract is part of the Civil Defense Aviation Modernization Plan. Under the plan, the Public Security Department has purchased the helicopters and established two bases in Asir and Makkah. Three existing bases — in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran — also will be expanded to accommodate more helicopters and crew.

Prince Naif said the contract compliments civil defense projects to use helicopters and complete support equipment in fighting fires, rescue and swift and efficient movement.

"The project came to light after long studies and testing of the efficiency of helicopters for civil defense purposes, especially during the pilgrimage period," he said. "In addition to practicality in rescue operations, helicopters contribute in fighting large fires and fires in highrise buildings."

Public Security Director Gen. Abdullah Al-Sheikh, who attended the signing of the contract, said that the supply of such advanced aircraft for civil defense will improve its services in rescue and fire fighting operations. He added that the move reflects the government's attention to this vital facility.

"The establishment of the new bases for civil defense indicates the government's keenness to enable this department to operate with exactness and speed to fight fires and rescue lives," Gen. Al-Sheikh stressed.

The project, which costs nearly SR600 million, will add 10 helicopters to bring the total number of such civil defense aircraft in the Kingdom to 16. The project also provides for training 216 Saudi Arabian personnel, and

40 pilots, securing personnel through nationals in all administrative and technical specializations, Prince Naif said.

He hoped that modernization of the civil defense will also cover sea ports. Prince Naif highlighted the Saudi Ports Authority's contribution to the civil defense network at Jeddah Islamic Port in fighting fires on ships.

"The civil defense' responsibilities are large and sensitive at all times; besides its rescue and firefighting task, the civil defense also has wide operations in catastrophes, floods and accidents," the prince said. Commending the efforts of civil defense men, he expressed the hope that infrastructure and security systems for the department will be completed during the coming years.

Speaking about the Interior Ministry's preparations for this year's pilgrimage, Prince Naif said the government has been hard at work to mobilize all potentials and complete preparations for the pilgrimage season. He said he hoped that pilgrims and all Islamic governments would cooperate with the Kingdom's authorities in facilitating the performance of pilgrimage rites which are of concern to all Muslims. This year, pilgrims will be able to perform their religious rites in a peaceful, spiritual atmosphere of security and stability, he said.

Dealing with security agreements signed between the Kingdom and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Prince Naif said that a work team has been formed by a resolution of GCC interior ministers to draw up the draft of the comprehensive security agreement for member states. The draft will be submitted to the interior ministers meeting in October, he added. He hoped that the agreement would be signed during that meeting.

The multi-purpose, bilateral agreement between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain represents the minimum level of the comprehen-

sive agreement. The proposed agreement will be at the level of the GCC states and peoples' aspirations to achieve integrated security, he said.

Asked about the bilateral agreement between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which has not been signed yet, Prince Naif said there are no differences between the countries about the agreement.

"Kuwait has its own views on certain matters and that made them not sign the agreement with Saudi Arabia," he said. "These views concern the exchange or handing over of criminals. The agreements signed with the rest of GCC member states included this issue," he added.

Talks between GCC member states and the work team has covered this issue and the decision has been left for the interior ministers, Prince Naif said.

CSO: 4400/489

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] RIYADH. Aug. 29 (SPA) — An additional SR315 million have been allocated under the 1982/83 state budget for development projects already approved by King Fahd in various cities and villages. The funds will be expended over three years.

The projects had been proposed by a committee of state undersecretaries which visited the various areas of Saudi Arabia and submitted a report to the king. The committee chairman, Prince Salman, who is also the governor of Riyadh, said that the projects will include municipal, agricultural, health, road, electricity, telephone and other projects. The amount will cover the projects of 32 municipalities and rural complexes.

Foremost among such projects is the asphaltting of all cities and villages falling within the perimeter of Riyadh, the establishment of storm water drainage and drinking water networks in most of the area's cities and the creation of gardens and public parks. They also include the construction of pedestrian tunnels and bridges and the preparation of storm water drainage studies.

From the SR315 million, SR60 million were earmarked for Al-Kharj, SR10 million for Al-Dolom Municipality, SR5.5 million for

Al-Hayathem Municipality, SR23.5 million for Al-Mujammaa Municipality, SR14.1 million for Hawtat Sudair Municipality, SR6.5 million for Rawdat Sudairi, SR4.5 million for Al-Jalajel, SR0.5 million for Tamir, SR8 million for Al-Ghaat, SR2.3 million for Al-Zalfi, SR5.5 million for Thadeq, SR5.3 million for Al-Horaymala'e, SR7 million for Al-Der'eyyah, SR6 million for Al-Ayina and Al-Jubailah, SR6.5 million for Shaqra'e, SR6.2 million for Marraat, SR2 million for Darmaax, SR9.7 million for Al-Muzahemeyyah, SR8.2 million for Al-Quway'eyyah, SR19 million for Al-Dawademi, SR6.7 million for Sajer, SR1.5 million for Nafi, SR10 million for Al-Afif, SR18 million for Wadi Al-Dawaser, SR15.5 million for Al-Sulayyel, SR10.1 million for Al-Iflaj, SR14 million for Hawtat Bani Tamim, SR3 million for Al-Hareeq, SR300,000 for Al-Holwah, SR4 million for Al-Haddar, and SR700,000 for Al-Rammah.

The projects also call for the construction of central markets, lighting, tree planting, the digging of wells, sand barriers, peddlers' areas, municipal buildings, toilets pilgrim rest areas and other facilities.

CSO: 4400/490

BRIEFS

INDIAN CONSORTIUM WINS HOUSING CONTRACT--The Saudi Arabia Interior Ministry has chosen an Indian consortium to build 576 villas for the Saudi internal security forces at Tabuk in the north of the country. The two-year contract, worth SR 450 million (\$130.8 million), has gone to the Indian Overseas Construction Consortium (IOCC) and includes the construction of schools, three hospitals, a health centre, a mosque and a utility building. The complex will be centrally air-conditioned and power will be supplied by four 10 Megawatt generators. According to Indian press reports, the project will require 1,400 skilled and unskilled labourers from India. About 10 Indian companies, including Voltas and Gammon India, are involved with the scheme. Meanwhile, Gammon Pakistan has won a SR 165 million (\$47.9 million) order to build the Ahli sports complex in Jeddah. The sports complex, which covers an area of 75,000 square metres, is scheduled for completion in 22 months. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 29, 6 Sep 82 p 12]

WATER PIPELINE DEAL--Further details have emerged about a \$425 million contract awarded by Saudi Arabia to an international consortium for the construction of a water pipeline in the mountainous region of Asir in southwest Saudi Arabia (An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO, August 23). The consortium, led by Saipem of Italy, also includes the Turkish construction and installation company Tekfen and Lebanon's Contracting and Trading Company (CAT). The 300-kilometre pipeline will carry water from the desalination plant at Shuqayq on the Red Sea to the cities of Jizan and Abha. The project, due to be completed in about three and a half years, will include seven reservoirs, six tunnels, five bridges, four pumping stations and a small housing compound, according to officials in Jeddah. The consortium is carrying out the project on behalf of Saudi Arabia's state-owned Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC). [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 29, 6 Sep 82 p 12]

CSO: 4400/490

NEW PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPING HIMS DESERT CITED

Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 8 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Hisham Boukhari]

[Text]

Editor's note: The Syrian desert is not an arid desert, as most economists think, nor is it a lifeless area.

The Syrian desert is, in fact, a piece of land which can easily be reclaimed, by providing the needed water resources.

The great importance, which at present is given to the Syrian desert, is in fact due to the recent development of our national economy. The continuous increase in population, the rising standards of income and of living and the expansion of construction projects and public services in most of the country's governorates have led to a tremendous increase in the consumption of meat and dairy products. Therefore, great efforts were concentrated on the methods which would guarantee an increase in the dairy cattle wealth in order to achieve self-sufficiency in this field.

The development of the desert means exactly the reclamation of large areas of land which have great potentials. This can be done through providing water resources, building fixed and permanent lodgings for the nomad citizens of the desert

and raising their standard of living by providing them with all needed public services.

Homs desert is considered among the greatest deserts of Syria. It covers over one third of the whole Syrian desert. This has made it receive all the care and attention of the authorities concerned.

In an interview with the head of the Desert Department in the Directorate of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Mr George Rabahia said that the desert of Homs covers an area of 3,656,960 hectares. He pointed out that 150,000 citizens live in this desert. These citizens, he added, are divided into three major groups:

- The first group lives permanently in regions and villages, works in agriculture, and breeds cattle.

- The second group is living like bedouins in a semi-nomadic way, roving throughout the desert for nearly half the year, and living in villages in the desert for the other half of the year.

- The third group consists of a number of nomadic bedouins like al-Rola tribe and Sab'a clans.

Mr Rabahia said that at present the Desert Department is trying all possible means to

convince the second and third groups to settle down in the desert by providing stable lodging for them and by raising their standard of living.

He pointed out that cooperative societies have already been established in the desert in order to breed and fatten cattle and to provide every kind of assistance to the inhabitants of the desert. Mr Rabahia emphasized that 117 cooperative societies exist in the desert of Homs at present. These societies are specialized in breeding and fattening cattle. He said that the societies are divided into three main categories:

- Fifty-one societies for developing and improving pastures.
- Fifty-four for breeding cattle.
- Twelve societies for fattening cattle.

These societies, he went on, own 76 per cent of the cattle of the governorate. They have 1,431,000 sheep and 2,566 camels.

The lack of water resources represents one of the essential factors which make it impossible for the citizens of the desert to live permanently in fixed place. The citizens of the desert pass most of their time roving in the desert in search for water and grazing plots for their animals.

Thus, Mr Rabahia said, efforts were concentrated in order to provide permanent water resources by digging new wells and repairing the old ones. Therefore, 12 new artesian wells have been drilled in the desert of Homs. The depths of these wells range between 100 meters to 300

meters, with a storage capacity of 12 cubic meters per hour. Twenty other wells will soon be dug in the desert, Mr Rabahia stressed.

In addition to the projects of providing water resources, the Directorate of Agriculture is constructing warehouses for the storage of fodder. The construction of warehouses is considered part of the duty of the cooperative societies which already own a number of large stores in the desert.

The lack of warehouses represents another factor which has obliged the desert citizens to rove in search of fodder for their cattle.

The symposium on the development of the desert, held recently in Damascus, has called for the establishment of a center for breeding sheep in Palmyra. The aim of such a center is to improve the sheep stock in Syria. The center covers an area of 83,000 dunums, out of which 800 dunums were planted with pastures. Due to the growing importance of the desert of Homs, the Ministry of Agriculture is increasing the funds allocated for the projects of developing the desert every year.

For example, the sum of LS 397,000 was appropriated for the Homs desert in 1981. The sum was nearly doubled in 1982.

In the course of settling the citizens of the desert in permanent lodgings, the Directorate of Agriculture is also planting new pastures and repairing and maintaining the old wells.

SYRIA

BRIEFS

SUGAR PRODUCTION--HOMS, (SANA)--The Homs Sugar Company has achieved a great production increase over the 1982 plan, said the Company's Director. The amount of processed sugar beet for this season has totalled 50,000 tonnes at an average of 800 tonnes per day. The company is currently supplying 1,300 tonnes of sugar beet per day to Raqqa Sugar company. Homs sugar beet products for this season are estimated at 13,000 tonnes, half of which have been delivered to the new sugar factories in the country. [Text] [Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 8 Sep 82 p 3]

CSO: 4400/492

TUNISIA

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO AID EMIGRANT WORKERS AND REPATRIATES OUTLINED

Tunis AL-SABAH in Arabic 5 Aug 82 pp 3, 4

[Article: "Physical and Spiritual Link Ties the Worker to his Country; Encouraging Repatriates to Participate in the Development Plan by Granting Them Customs Exemptions"]

[Text] Sixteen years have passed since the holding of the first national meeting for Tunisian workers abroad, 16 years of tireless work and constant development of bold and important accomplishments in the context of a continuous dialogue between the individuals of our communities and officials on all levels. Sixteen years in which the policy of working abroad has seen significant developments and governing regulations, stemming from a theory that considers emigration a kind of cooperation between Tunisia and the host countries.

In concert with this thrust, concern for the psychological and social aspects that surround the whole process of shifting human elements, which is embodied in the contractual nature that has been given to this kind of cooperation, and which has been represented in the ratification of agreements that regulate the way we work with specific countries, has been directed at avoiding chaotic emigration and the resulting negative side effects.

We have also been concerned with maintaining, or rather, firming up the physical and spiritual link between the Tunisian citizen abroad and his country, community, people and clan.

Moreover, the state has not hesitated to find incentives and make arrangements for a not inconsiderable number of our citizens abroad to have effective participation in the fostering of development projects that provide new sources of wealth for the country, put an end to unemployment and enrich the national economy.

Within this framework, this year's meeting will be held from 6 to 8 August 1982, and will once again represent a constructive and impartial link in the dialogue, aimed at strengthening and evaluating the work carried out by all the agencies, and a look at how that work can be improved, in accordance with the available assets in the country. The hope is that this meeting will

be an opportunity for more intense dialogue on important matters concerning the present and future of our citizens abroad, in all of their various classes, and to make objective recommendations in accordance with our reality and the potential of our country, based upon what has been achieved by the government in the social and economic field for the benefit of our emigrant communities.

The Horizons of Emigration

Cooperation with the Arab Gulf Countires

Cooperation with the Arab Gulf nations in the field of exchanging experts and specialized manual labor has seen an important thrust during the present year, represented especially by:

1. Ratification of new agreements:

In addition to the agreements ratified in the past year with the UAE and Qatar, during the current year, similar agreements have been signed with Iraq, Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman, which will organize our cooperation in these areas on precise bases and ensure the rights of the individuals of our communities working in these countries.

2. The Office for Occupational Training, Employment and Tunisian Workers Abroad will concentrate on supporting this cooperation. Offices subordinate to the Office for Occupational Training, Employment and Tunisian Workers Abroad, working under the supervision of our embassies in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, have appointed labor attaches whose job is to represent the link with the authorities in these countries, and with those responsible for the organizations, to study the labor market, to search for job opportunities available, to facilitate the employment of the Tunisian work force, and to study the development of cooperation in all the fields that have a connection with human resources.

Concern for the Families of Our Emigrant Workers

Applying the recommendations of the previous national meetings of Tunisian workers abroad, and especially the recommendations of the last meeting which called for the creation of a special agency to be concerned with the affairs of the Tunisian workers' relatives remaining in the Tunisian Republic, a new agency in the Office for Occupational Training, Employment and Tunisian Workers Abroad has been charged with the task of assisting these families living in Tunisia to gain the greatest [measure] of stability possible in their social and family lives.

In a practical sense, this task is represented by the following activities:

1. Dealing with many of the social cases, which for the first 6 months of 1982 amounted to some 90 cases in various fields: discussions on behalf of families, implementing disbursement, insurance and pension rules, old age

payments, work and travel accidents, death benefits, marital disputes, registration of emigrants' children in Tunisian schools and centers, [settlement of] various disputes, preparing various documents for workers, social investigations, status settlement and family gatherings.

2. Preparing and offering the most comprehensive programs for the benefit of those areas that include a significant percentage of the families whose custodians work abroad.

These programs are basically aimed at maintaining contact with the families in order to become acquainted with their problems and help as far as possible to solve them, as well as to follow up on the children's behavior and studies.

Housing

The government has labored to inform the Tunisian workers abroad of the benefits which are granted to them by the housing savings law, which has been in force in Tunisia since 1974. The National Fund for Housing Savings tries to get them to participate in the programs that it carries out every year.

In view of the fact that housing is one of the most important concerns of our workers abroad, one has noted an increased willingness on their part to take part in the housing savings program.

The number of Tunisian workers abroad who were members in the National Fund for Housing Savings amounted to 5112 as of 30 June 1982.

As for the number of loans granted by the fund to the Tunisian member workers abroad, for the purpose of either building or buying a house in their native country, there were some 1925 loans valued at 11,161,121 dinars.

Teaching the Arabic Language

The subject of teaching Arabic is considered one of the most important concerns of our communities abroad, because of its influence on developing the basic national identity of the children and on their future when they return to their homeland.

Since 1974, the Ministry of National Education has made special efforts in this field, represented by sending the very best teachers to teach this language within the educational program in the French schools, or within the system of equivalent education whether in France or the other European countries. As regards Libya, the government established an exclusively Tunisian elementary school since the 1974-75 academic year.

Development of Arabic Language Education in Europe

The continuous efforts made by the government since 1974 have developed in concert with the needs of our communities. This development can be depicted as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Number of Teachers</u>	<u>Number of Centers</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
74/75	10	6	185
75/76	24	14	1000
76/77	44	72	2510
77/78	52	116	3516
78/79	61	210	4735
79/80	65	223	5449
80/81	71	236	6829
81/82	84	262	7100

Elementary School in Tripoli

This school's ability to accommodate students has increased from 167 pupils in 1974-75 to 868 during the current year. The number of departments has developed from 6 to 26, and the number of teachers from 6 to 23.

This school offered the first group of students for competitive entry into the first year of secondary education in 1977. For the past 2 years the rate of success has been:

1979-80 - 42.61 percent
1980-81 - 53.52 percent

The lessons in this school follow the same pattern as for other Arab students, such as Egyptians, Palestinians, Libyans and Moroccans.

The Return

Since 1974, a number of measures have been taken to assist the worker, facilitate his return and enable him to participate, for his part, in the social and economic development of the country. These actions include:

--Creating a repatriation agency within the Office for Occupational Training, Employment and Tunisian Workers Abroad, whose mission is to assist the worker returning to his homeland to solve the unexpected problems, to give him guidance and to provide him with all the necessary information.

--Establishing guidance and reception offices at the entry points (Tunis-Carthage airport, Sfax-al-Munastir airport, Ras Jadir).

--Granting customs exemptions for furniture and household appliances when the final return occurs, including a car and truck.

--Encouraging the returning citizens, for their own benefit, to share in the development plan, by granting them exemptions from customs duties on tools and equipment suitable for agricultural, industrial or traditional projects.

In this regard, the total number of projects carried out by our workers returning to the homeland, and which were approved by the Agency for Finance Promotion for the period 1975-81, was as follows:

Number of projects	- 1,126
Total financing	- 38 million dinars
Worksites to be created	- 13,992

7005

CSO: 4504/473

AGRO-INDUSTRY STATISTICS FOR 1981 REPORTED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 23 Aug 82 p 10

[Text] In 1981, industrial activity on the whole continued to advance, although at a less rapid rate than that noted in 1980. Expressed in current prices, the added value of the industrial sector would have increased at the high rate of 19 percent. But in constant prices, this rate drops to 6.2 percent compared with 8.2 percent in 1980. The deceleration also appears in the movement of the industrial production index (base of 100 in 1977), which increased only 3 percent compared with 6.8 percent in 1980. In any event, the sector's share of the total PIB [gross domestic product], evaluated in terms of factor cost and 1972 prices, has remained, for the third consecutive year, in the neighborhood of 28 percent.

In 1981, the manufacturing industry sector developed at a slightly slower rate than that noted the preceding year, that is, 12.4 percent compared with 13 percent. The deceleration affected especially the chemical, construction material and textile industries. On the other hand, the agro-food, mechanical and electrical industries registered higher increases than in 1980.

Agro-Food Industries

In the agro-food industries, some renewal of activity was noted in 1981, in particular as a result of the growth in agricultural production during the 1980-81 campaign.

Stimulated by the continued increase in consumption of cereal products, flour mill and semolina factory activity continued at a sustained rate in 1981.

Likewise, the pasta industry and bakeries, whose products are increasingly in demand, continued to advance, although installed production capacity does not seem to be fully utilized as yet.

The development of animal husbandry, particularly poultry farming and animal fattening, continues to stimulate the animal food products industry, with production increasing from 474,000 tons in 1980 to 620,000 tons in 1981.

This advance can be explained by the increased demand resulting from the decrease in available fodder as a result of the drought.

Production of pasteurized and sterilized milk, provided mainly by the Tunisian Dairy Industry Company (STIL), showed a drop of some 31 percent in 1981, reaching only 700,000 hectoliters, the drop in production being the result of social conflicts and the 4-month halt in pasteurized milk production corresponding to the time needed to replace equipment that had become obsolete.

On the other hand, yogurt production showed an increase, reaching 293 million jars compared with 283 million in 1980. This increase resulted from the establishment of new production units during the past few years.

White sugar production, as provided by the Meja sugar refinery, showed a drop in 1981, reaching only 57,300 tons, as against 59,600 the preceding year. This decline affected both the refining of imported crude sugar and the conversion of locally produced beets.

The inauguration in June 1983 of the new Ben Bechir sugar refinery in the Jendouba region will, on the one hand, make it possible to increase coverage of the country's sugar needs from 5 to 25 percent through production obtained from local beets and, on the other, increase the country's refining capacity and consequently reduce recourse to the importation of white sugar.

In 1981, oil mill activity continued at a satisfactory rate on the whole and also in relation to the good olive harvest obtained during the 1980-81 campaign. In this connection, installed grinding capacities were improved thanks to modernization of the existing oil mills and the establishment of new units. In sum, olive oil production in 1981 reached 145,000 tons compared with 85,000 tons the preceding year.

Following a good tomato crop, the production of tomato paste increased appreciably in 1981, reaching 42,000 tons compared with 28,000 tons the preceding year. This increase was achieved thanks to good climatic conditions and the rise in price of fresh tomatoes delivered to the canning factories, which went from 30 to 35 millimes per kilogram. Taking into account 4,000 tons of inventory carried forward, total stocks of canned tomatoes available for the 1981-82 campaign reached 46,000 tons, making it possible to meet domestic consumption estimated at 34,000 tons, set up a reserve stock of some 5,000 tons and set aside about 7,000 tons for export. During the preceding campaign, 9,500 tons of tomato paste were imported to offset the shortage in local production. However, the deficit was smaller than anticipated.

Harissa production showed an increase of 15.4 percent, rising from 7,800 tons in 1980 to 9,000 tons in 1981. This increase can be explained basically by the easing of prices of fresh peppers delivered to the canning factories.

The decrease in the apricot crop during the 1980-81 campaign, as a result of the unfavorable climatic conditions that prevailed at the beginning of 1981, had a negative effect on apricot pulp production. Indeed, this dropped by 14.3 percent, reaching only about 3,000 tons.

With regard to semipreserved vegetables, in particular beans, peas and artichokes, these tend to stagnate under the effects of the low level of agricultural production. For the 1980-81 campaign, production of these semipreserved foods barely reached 11,000 tons, that is, more or less the same level of the year before.

The decrease in the tuna catch, taken basically in the Gabes and Sfax fishing zones, and the stagnation in jacking, adapted to the taking of small bluefish, had an unfavorable effect on the 1981 fish canning campaign. Indeed, production of this canned food product declined considerably, dropping from 6,500 tons in 1980 to only 4,200 tons in 1981.

In light of a continued increase in consumption, beverage production showed an appreciable increase for most products in 1981. Thanks to the modernization of its equipment, the Thermal and Mineral Water Spa Company (SOSTEM) in 1981 produced 26.5 million bottles of mineral water, almost all of which were large size compared with 23.8 million bottles the year before.

Similarly, the production of carbonated beverages clearly advanced, reaching 1.8 million hectoliters, an increase of 28.6 percent. Despite this advance, there are still production difficulties resulting from seasonal variations in demand.

As for alcoholic beverages, production dropped by 7 percent for beer and 10.3 percent for wine, amounting to 300,000 and 555,000 hectoliters respectively.

9434

CSO: 4519/291

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

Oct. 13, 1982